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(Continued on page 5)

#### 10 killed in attack on Sudan mosque

NICOSIA (R) — Ten people were killed in an armed attack on a mosque in Omdorman, twin city of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, during Friday prayers, the Sudanese Interior Ministry reported in a statement broadcast by state radio. About five attackers "carried out a wicked act of aggression," at the mosque, the statement, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said. The attackers fled but one suspect was captured, the ministry said. Ten people were killed and several injured, some of them seriously, it said. The statement gave no indication of the attackers' motives but said early reports indicated there were foreigners among them.



Jordan backs social development summit

NEW YORK (Petra) - Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh said Friday Jordan had always supported the idea of holding an international summit to discuss social development out of its awareness of the increasing social problems and the dangers inherent in them at national, regional and international levels. Addressing a meeting of a summit preparatory committee at the U.N. headquarters in New York, Mr. Abu Odeh said Jordan believes that social problems are universal and seeks an international effort to tackle them. Jordan, he said, realises that the three main issues that would be handled by the conference will be of concern to all countries in the world. Choosing Copenhagen to host the conference is but a sign on the state of unity the world is living to counter environmental problems and demographic changes, he said, adding that if the summit was to achieve effective results, the participating countries have to sincerely recognise this state of unity. Mr. Abu Odeh said the Jordanian government had taken extensive procedures to prepare for this international summit and had set up a specialised national panel headed by the minister of social development.

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# King returns, says ties with U.S. are being consolidated

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- His Majesty King Hussein returned home Friday describing as "very successful" talks he held with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other administration officials and saying that the two countries are determined to bring their. relation to the strong levels of

'I believe (the visit) was a very successful one. It came at a good time... (and) was characterised by openness and frankness," King Hussein told reporters upon returning to Amman from a three-leg visit that also took him to Austria and Croatia.

King Hussein said that there was a genuine desire in the U.S. to support Jordan and see American-Jordanian relations 'develop and grow.'

"But this might need time and patience," he said. Reaffirming Jordan's commitment to a just and compre-hensive Middle East peace, King Hussein expressed hope for progress on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in the upcoming period.

But in response to a question on bow soon Middle East peace could be achieved, the King said: "I cannot say for sure that we are that close from achieving peace. But I believe the process is serious."
King Hussein said that Jor-

dan had rejected "suggestions" to ratify a peace treaty with Israel and then negotiate its terms because "this is not the right approach at all." He said Jordan was currently

negotiating the items on the agenda for peace talks with Israel and that is "a part of a process leading to the establishment of final, comprehensive peace.' "Sometimes there are diffi-

culties or obstacles, but I believe that we can overcome (them) if everybody's wish was to work together for peace," said King Hussein, who added that he was not fully familiar with the outcome of the Davos talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Ara-

Responding to a question on claims by Israeli Knesset mem-ber Yael Dayan that she would visit Jordan in March upon his invitation, King Husseln said, "I have not issued an invita-

"But I don't know, maybe she'd like to visit Jordan in March and may be that should be possible. I don't have anything to say about that."

Responding to a question on the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Imran Maaytah in Beirut last week,

King Hussein said he "was more than angered and sad-dened by this kind of vicious

But the King said that Jordan, which has paid dearly "in blood in the past for our principles and ideals" would not be intimidated by cowards and cowardly acts.

"All of us are going to die sooner or later... but nobody can murder a nation and I think that here we have a nation which stands proud and will continue to stand proud and we will never be intimidated by cowards and cowardly acts," King Hussein said.

"I don't think that there are any in this world who can intimidate this country," he

King Hussein expressed confidence that the perpetrators of two explosions in cinema theatres in Amman and Zarqa in the last two weeks "will be found out and be dealt with."

Nine people were injured in the explosions. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said the authorities had made some progress in the investigations.

But he did not elaborate. Responding to a question on the situation in Yemen, King Hussein said Jordan will "do the impossible" for bringing about reconciliation between Aden and San'a but added that

the signing of a treaty to end

the crisis could be delayed for some time. (see separate story).

King Hussein, who on Thursday visited Jordanian peacekeeping troops in Croatia, praised the role Jordan is playing in keeping peace in that country. He said this role corresponds with Jordan's ambitions and goals to see people live in "peace and dignity."

On a cold and windy day, several hundred Jordanian soldiers lined up in front of their headquarters near Nouska 100 kilometres west of the Croatian capital Zagreb, to welcome the King, the AP reported.

They are stationed in Sector West, one of four U.N. protected areas in Croatia, where U.N. forces have kept relative peace since Croats and Serbs reached a ceasefire accord in January 1992.

The 950-strong Jordanian battalion that rotates every six months has been deployed there since April 1992. It was King Hussein's second visit to

There were cheers when the King walked into the improvised white tent, the size of a basketball field, into which the entire battalion managed to

They chanted: "We will give our soul and blood for you,

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein embraces Her Royal Highness Princess Raya upon his return home Friday along with Her Majesty Queen Noor (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

# Supply **Ministry** refutes charges

Yousef Al 'Allan)

His Majesty King Hussein is received upon bis return home on

Friday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (photo by

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Ministry of Supply Friday denied reports in some local newspapers that milk powder imported by the ministry was unfit for consumption and threatened legal action against parties

spreading such information.

The director of the ministry's quality control department, Hassnouni Mbeilan, said the milk imported by the ministry from Belgium underwent tests in the manufacturing country and at the ministry's laboratories in Agaba when it

Of the whole quantity, totalling about 300,000 cartons. some 255,000 were sold in the local market while part of the rest was found in swollen bags. Mr. Mhailan said.

was received in the beginning

These, he added, were sent to the laboratories of the Ministry of Health, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) the University of Jordan and, the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) and none of them did not find any reason for not

selling them to consumers. "My capacity as head of the quality control department and an official of the ministry for nine years gives me the right to give my opinion in this issue," Mr. Mheilan, a master degree holder in food technology, said

in a letter sent to the newspap-

"All lab tests results available at the department from the Ministry of Health, the RSS, the University of Jordan and the municipality in addition to other Arab and international labs prove that the whole quantity of milk is fit for human consumption, including the 45,000 cartons which some alleged that were kept in swollen bags without relying on any

lab tests," he said. He said all the test results. whether biological, chemical or radiological, proved that the milk powder was fit for consumption, conforming with the ministry's standards and speci-

# Arafat may not meet Peres Monday; Rabin consults generals on peace

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Friday PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was unlikely to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Cairo on Monday as a final settlement of security arrangements for Palestinian

self-rule was still unsure. Other PLO officials would probably go in Mr. Arafat's place, Executive Committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo

Mr. Peres said in the United States on Thursday he would meet Mr. Arafat in Cairo on Monday, carrying on from last weekend's talks in Davos, Switzerland.

But Mr. Abed-Rabbo told Renters: "It is not sure or necessary that Chairman Arafat take part at Monday's meeting, particularly if it does not appear this meeting will be able to reach final results."

Mr. Abed Rabbo was speaking after a Thursday night review by the PLO leadership of the results of the Davos meet-

"The PLO leadership has some observations on some issues discussed during the Davos meeting, particularly about the surface of (Jewish) settlements in the Gaza Strip and lateral roads in the Jericho area, for which Israel has not yet provided a clear map," he

There are also some other points on the passages regarding the guarantee of Palestiquit Palestinian lands without Israeli security obstacles."

Another PLO source said that before deciding whether to attend the Cairo talks, Mr. Arafat was looking for a clear sign from Israel that Mr. Peres would be authorised by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to negotiate a final agreement with the Palestinians on security issues.

"Mr. Arafat does not want to attend another meeting with the number two (Peres) unless he has delegation from number one (Rabin) to take decisions," he said.

The Israelis will take to Cairo the results of Mr. Rabin's Friday conference with army commanders about security arrangements after Israel makes its promised but delayed withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and a West Bank enclave around Jericho.

- A pronounced split between the army chiefs and Mr. Peres over negotiating positions with the PLO prompted Mr. Rabin to consult with his generals Friday.

The dispute between Mr. Peres and the army was on security issues, with the army taking a harder line on getting the Palestinians down to de-

Mr. Rabin seemed more optimistic than he did after the Davos talks when he said an agreement could take weeks. The goal is to consolidate what was advanced significant-

TUNIS (Agencies) - A senior nian citizens' right to enter and ly in the Davos talks when Peres meets Arafat Monday in Cairo," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio when asked why he was meeting with the army's general staff. "But the heart of the security issue has been dealt with in Davos and I hope will

be concluded in Cairo. However, he also told a group of bankers that even if the security issues are solved, there are still the economic problems, the micro and macro problems, how will it all

work?" Mr. Rabin added that the agreement would not be implemented until all issues were resolved.

Talks stalled over control of the borders into the Palestinian autonomy zone in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region, including the size of Jericho itself.

"It is an issue of drafting . the crossings and the size of Jericho, to arrive at a an agreed upon, clear result." Mr. Rabin said, "We haven't yet discussed in depth the dimensions of the Palestinian

The radio said Mr. Rabin rejected the ideas of joint patrols with Palestinian police, Palestinian outposts on the roads leading to the Gush Katif bloc of settlements and did not want any Palestinian customs

General Ehud Barak told (Continued on page 5)

Chief-of-staff Lieutenant-

# Yemeni pact stalled; King pledges continued efforts

# By a Jordan Times

AMMAN — The signing of a reconciliation and reform agreement among Yemen's feuding political leaders have been put off after last-minute differences emerged between the dominant parties in the north and south of the country.

Amman was supposed to have bosted on Monday the signing of the agreement, worked out by a mediation committee last month, and was awaiting a Yemeni delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Mujahed Abu Shawareb on Thursday to finalise plans for the event.

But officials said Amman was informed that the delegation was putting off its visit until the Yemeni parties sort out their differences and finalise the draft accord itself.

His Majesty King Hussein, who played a key role in mediating the rift between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, said Friday: "I believe that we may soll need some time to reach this conclusion. You know the extent of our concern over the Yemeni brothers and our response to their faith in us here in Jordan and their wish that we assist them in reaching the agreement and setting the basis for the future."

The King, who was answering reporters' questions upon his return home from visits to the U.S. and Austria, (see bave made great efforts and we will continue. This process might be delayed for some time... we will always try to make Jordan the capital of agreement and reconcilia-

Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi was in Amman Thursday to exchange views with Jordanian officials on the Yemeni developments.

Like King Hussein, Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed was also closely involved in mediation the Yemeni policical crisis. Vice-President Beedh has remained ensconsed in his

Aden stronghold since August when he stalked out of the capital Sanaa, dissatisfied with the slow pace of unification and the violence in the country, which was formed in a merger of the North and south in May 1990.

Abdul Karim Al Iriyani, minister of planning and development and the representative of President Saleh's General People's Congress on the (GPC) mediating committee, charged that the southerners had raised new conditions that would delay the sign-

"We are ready to sign the paet even if it were done aboard a warship in the high seas," Mr. Iriyani told a press conference. "New conditions from the Yemen Socialist Party

(Continued on page 5)

#### Several people questioned in explosions at cinemas By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Security authorities are questioning at least five people in connection with bombings at two movie theatres in the last two weeks. But officials are declining comment on whether there was any evidence to indicate that a single group was behind the two blasts.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad confirmed the arrest of five people on Wednesday. one day after a bomb tore through the Salwa movie theatre in Zarqa, injuring two people, one of them seriously.

The minister said invesogations were continuing and that investigators were keeping all possibilities open. Other sources said more arrests were made but did not disclose any details.

The Salwa blast followed a similar explosion on Jan. 26 at the Rivoli movie house in downtown Amman which injured seven people, one of them seriously.

The common features of the two bombings were that both occurred at establishments screening X-rated movies and the nature of the explosive devices were the same. In addition, the exact place where the bombs, described as crude homemade devices lacking any sophistication, was also the same — near the projection

More importantly, however, according to sources, the bombs were of the same type as that of devices removed and defused before they exploded at two liquor stores over the past six months. In turn, those devices appeared to have been built with the same technique that was used by the extremist underground group called Jeish Mohammad (Mohammad's Army), the sources said. "It is premature to point the finger at any specific group despite the common features of the explosive devices," said. one source. "Anyone who ever worked with the Afghan Mujahedeen could have learnt the

technique." Jeish Mohammad is believed to comprise mostly of Jorda-nian volunteers who fought with the Afghan rebels and returned home after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan

Eighteen members of the group were found guilty of carrying out or plotting attacks against government officials, security officers, state buildings and foreign diplomats as well as liquor stores and night clubs in 1992.

Eight of them, including two in absencia, were sentenced to death. The death sentences, except those on the two at large, were commuted to life terms by His Majesty King

Jeish Mohammad was at one point alleged to be the "military wing" of the Muslim Brotherhood, but the Brotherhood has categorically denied any such link with the group.

According to experts on the Islamic movement in Jordan, Jeish Mohammad was set up by hardliners who belonged to the Brotherhood who were disillusioned with what they saw as the leadership's moderate approach and confining the group to the mainstream political process in Jordan.

The Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Brotherhood, has denounced the Jan. 26 bombing saying violence was not the means to prevent cinemas from showing films that many see as incompatible with the conservative Jordanian society.

# Bilaterals to resume on Feb. 15; Syria assails Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Thursday that Middle East peace talks in Washington have been productive and the parties have agreed to recess until Feb. 15 to confer "with

their authorities at home." "The co-sponsors of the talks consultation after with the parties have suggested a short break... and the parties have agreed that the talks will resume here in Washington on Feb. 15th in much the same format that they've been using so far: the more informal, streamlined format... (which) has been conducive to productive, interesting exchanges be-tween the parties," he said.

The spokesman added that "it would be premature to suggest any dramatic breakthroughs in the talks they've had so far."

Asked why the co-sponsors suggested a break, Mr. McCurry said: "I think they felt it was a good opportunity for the parties to take a breather and consult with their governments and their authorities in their respective locations and that it was a good point to maybe take a break. And they've been going for almost two weeks solid and it's a good point to take a break, and then come back again."

Asked at what level will the

talks resume, he said: "Same

format and my understanding

is, same level, including the heads of delegation and those who have been participaoing.'

Syria criticises Israel

A leading government-run Syrian newspaper Friday blamed Israel for the lack of progress in the 12th round of Middle East peace talks in Washington and indirectly called for U.S. pressure on the Jewish state.

The Al Thawra daily, casting a pall over recently resumed negotiations, said in an editorial: "If no political pressure is exerted on Israel to bring her rulers back to the right path. peace will remain a far-fetched

goal and more setbacks will

"If the peace process remains exposed to continuous setbacks, the Middle East region will be facing the danger of explosion," the newspaper warned.

The Syrians appear to be playing down the prospects for their talks with Israel, which resumed last week after a four-' month break, that was triggered by the signing of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's (PLO) secretly negotiated Sept. 13 accord

with Israel. The talks got underway again after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva Jan. 16 and showed signs of a new flexibility. The latest round ended

Thursday. An Israeli official said there had been "some subtle changes, very subtle," in Syria's position and that the mood had improved.

But Al Thawra declared: "The Washington bilaterals have ended without achieving any tangible progress."

It said that the world has become convinced that Israel's negotiators were still presenting "frozen ideas" about their understanding of peace conditions and requirements.

(Continued on page 3)



# Bishop's murder, riots mar Iranian anniversary

By Alex Efty The Associated Press

TEHRAN - Iran is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its Islamic revolution this week. but festivities have been marred by an attempt to assassinate the president and the murder of a bishop who was agitating against persecution of his

The daily Jomhuri Islami complained Thursday that the Western news media were exploiting the events to "create an atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The week-long celebrations came amid dire economic conditions, worsened by world oil prices at a five-year low and a foreign debt estimated at a staggering \$30 billion. which have heightened hardships for most of Iran's 60 million peo-

The abortive attempt on President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Toesday was followed by the discovery of the lacerated body of Bishop Haik Hovsepian, and clashes between demonstrators and the army in the southeastern city of Zahe-

Mr. Rafsanjani, who remains popular among the people, was elected to a second four-year term in August on promises of reform to ease the economic problems that force many Iranians to work at two or even three jobs to make ends meet.

Tuesday's shooting incident was initially dismissed by authorities as just an attempt by a lone gunman to disrupt the opening ceremony of the festi-

But Iran's official radio quoted an unidentified official as saying Thursday that the shooting was part of an organised plot to assassinate the

As Mr. Rafsanjani addressed a crowd of thousands at the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the revolution, the gunman pulled out a pistol but was grabbed by people around him, causing him to miss his target, according to local news reports.

The assailant managed only to fire a few shots in the air. which pierced the roof of the golden-domed shrine.

Mr. Rafsanjani continued his speech unperturbed as the 10.000-strong congregation chanted his name and "Marg bar monafed," or death to the hypocrites, the name Iranians use to refer to the Iraq-based opposition group. Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

minority.

local papers.

drug traffickers.

Tuesday's violence.

clashes with the army and an

unspecified number of arrests.

Reports about the demolition

of the mosque were denied by

drug smugglers facing a gov-

ernment crackdown in the area

had instigated the violence.

Zahedan is close to the borders

with predominantly Sunni

Pakistan and Afghanistan, an

area used by smugglers and

The Mujahedeen-e-Khaiq

claimed that at least two peo-

ple were killed, 14 wounded

and about 100 arrested in

The state-run Islamic Re-

public News Agency blamed

"foreigners" and "counterre-

volutionaries" who tried to dis-

rupt the anniversary celebra-

Tebran Television linked the

"Such incidents could only

shooting with the riots, and put

the blame for both on the

be the work of intelligence

agencies such as the Central

Intelligence Agency or Mos-

sad," Israel's secret service.

the television said in a com-

mentary Wednesday.

United States or Israel.

An official statement said

Tehran's image abroad received a heavy blow when the body of the 48-year-old bishop, an Armenian-Iranian who headed the missionary Assemblies of God church in iran, was found with multiple stab wounds.

Mr. Hovsepian had been agitating for the release of the Rev. Mehdi Debaj, a member of his church, who had been imprisoned and sentenced to death for changing his religion

to Christianity from Islam. Mr. Hovsepian's body was found by police in a Tehran street several days after he disappeared on his way to the

airport, His brotber, Edward, said Mr. Hovsepian had recently received warnings from the authorities to cease the proselytising activities of his church, which are banned under Iran's Islamic laws.

Middle East Watch, a New York-based human rights group, said it suspected Mr. Hovsepian had been kidnapped by an Iranian security agency, but gave no evidence

The London-based Amnesty



TALKS IN AUSTRIA: Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky (right) introduces His Majesty

King Hussein to the media prior to their meeting in Vienna Thursday (AFP photo)

## Peres encourages U.S. Jews to migrate to Israel

BOSTON (AP) - Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Thursday encouraged American Jews who plan to immigrate to Israel and predicted his country's economy would boom as Arab-Israeli peace agreements open borders and increase trade.

"The economic situation looks promising for the future. All we are waiting for is you," Mr. Peres told a group of New Englanders planning to immi-

But at least one recent immigrant, Karine Bolton, 24, said she is afraid the predicted economie boom would change the character of Jerusalem, as developers start building more hotels and commercial build-

"Israel is going to start developing faster than anyone can imagine," Ms. Bolton said. "My main concern is that the city I love is going to make rapid leaps into the 21st century, and I hope it keeps some

of its old world charm." Earlier in the day at a news conference, Mr. Peres said Israel hopes to reach agreement soon with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) about releasing thousands of Palestinian political prisoners.

Mr. Peres said the issue of Palestinian prisoners was on the agenda and he expected an agreement within weeks.

The foreign minister said he was visiting the United States now to report where the Israeli government stands. "We are not just in the

business of negotiations, but we are in a period of making a moral choice," Mr. Peres said. "I feel that we negotiate with ourselves not less than with the Palestinians... to return ourselves to a Jewish tradition which is more than 4,000 years old: We have never

people in the past and we don't want to do so in the future." he Later, in a television interview. Mr. Peres said the peace deal would "absolutely" go

attempted to dominate another

through in a world with no cold "It will happen, and for the simple reason that even if we didn't change and the Palesti-

nians didn't change, the world has changed," he said on "Charlie Rose," an interview programme broadcast

# U.S. gives \$7 million for Palestinian housing

TEL AVIV (AP) - The United States on Thursday gave Palestinians \$7 million to build bousing for refugees in the occupied Gaza Strip, as the first instalment of a \$500 million emergency aid package.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed the agreement for the grant with the Palestinian Housing Council in Arab East Jerusalem. The money will be used to build 192 apartments in the Gaza Strip town of Jabaliya.

It represented the first fruit of the \$500 million that the U.S. promised the Palestinians after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace accord on Sept. 13.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said the U.S. grant will help Palestinians lay down the infrastructure for the state they hope to set up in the

"We hope today's signing will be the beginning of a good future for the Palestinians," Mr. Husseini said.

Attorney Ibrahim Shabaan. chairman of the Palestinian Housing Council, said the agreement showed the seriousness of the U.S. administration in pushing the peace process

"We hope our agreement today will be the beginning of further cooperation between the Palestinians and the U.S. government," Mr. Shabaan

He urged President Bill Clinton's administration to pressure Israel to ease its building restrictions on Palestinians and halt land confisca-

"We sign this agreement here in East Jerusalem, but we cannot move an inch because the land here is either confiscated, or state land or we are not allowed to build on it," Mr. Shaaban said.

There is a severe housing shortage among the two mil-lion Palestinians in the occunied West Bank and Gaza Strip, because the economy was suffered severely during the six-year old uprising, and because Israeli authorities controI land use and building per-

## Turkey, Iran and Syria to discuss Iraq

ISTANBUL (R) - The foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey meet in Istanbul Saturday for talks on Iraq, eight days after nine Iranian civilians were killed in a Turkish air raid on separatist Kurds in northern

Foreign Ministry officials from the three countries were due to meet in Istanbul on Friday to prepare for the ministerial meeting on Iraq, the fourth held since November

At each meeting, Hikmet Cetin of Turkey, Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Syria's Farouk Al Sharaa have reaffirmed their support for Iraq's territorial integrity and their hostility to emergence of any inde-pendent Kurdish state in

northern Iraq.

Ankara is boping that last Friday's air strike against Kur-dish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in Zaleh camp, 110 kilometres from Turkey on the Iran-Iraq border will not spoil the atmosphere at Saturday's meeting of regional powers.

Turkey on Thursday ex-pressed "deep sorrow" for causing Iranian casualties and has offered to make repara-

"It has been established that a few cluster bombs aimed at anti-aircraft positions... close to the Iranian border exploded in the air, scattering parts to Iranian soil and causing loss of life and (damage to) property," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"We are deeply sorry that Iranian citizens lost lives and property as a result of such an incident. We offer our condolences to the families of our Iranian brothers who died," it said.

Iran has said nine Iranians were killed and 19 injured in the attack, one of the biggest by the Turkish air force against the PKK, fighting for a Kurdish state in southeast Turkey.

Tebran demanded an apology and compensation for the attack, which created an anti-Turkish furore in the Iranian

The incident illustrated the regional tensions arising from the presence of at least 20 million Kurds whose homelands spread across the borders of Iran, Iraq, syria, and Tur-

Baghdad has frequently protested at Turkey's cross-border raids against the PKK in northern Iraq and at Iranian artillery and air strikes against Iranian Kurdish rebels based there,

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Qadhafi 'closing file on Lockerbie'

LONDON (AP) - Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Libya had no part in the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people five years ago and was "closing the files" on the issue, "Libya is not paying the price of the Lockerbie incident, because no verdict has been passed saying that it should," Colonel Qadhafi said in a speech in Misratah, east of Tripoli, that was broadcast Thursday by Libyan Television. Pan Am Flight 103 blew up over Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988, killing all 259 on board and 11 people in the town of Lockerbie. The U.N. Security Council has approved sanctions against Libya to pressure the country into extraditing two bombing suspects to Britain or the United States for trial. Libya has refused. "We declare that we have nothing to do with Lockerbie and we have no interest in this issue," Col. Qadhafi said the broadcast, which was monitored in London. "We are not looking at this file and we are closing it," he said. He added that as a result of the U.N. sanctions, Libya was "paying the price of independence, liberation and emancipation, the price of being a free and sovereign country."

FURTHER A

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#### Nuclear inspectors arrive in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) - U.N. nuclear experts arrived in Baghdad Friday optimistic that they would make progess in their mission to strip Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction. The objective of our mission this time is to continue our work to complete the baseline information for our ongoing monitoring and verification plan." Gary Dilloin, leader of the International Alomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team, told reporters. He said baseline inspection "includes many things in terms of the ters. He said baseline inspection "includes many things in terms of the declarations under the ongoing monitoring and verification plan declaration of facilities and equipment." Mr. Dillon said he expected the Iraqis to be expectative in this regard. "We expect to make useful progress." he added. Senior U.N. envoy Roll Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), is in Baghdaid discussing with senior Iraq officials ways to implement U.N. resolutions calling for a strict control of Baghdad's arms industry in the luture.

#### Gunmen kill two in southeast Turkish city

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Gunmen shot dead two civilians Friday in Diyarbakir, southeast Turkey, where a spate of street killings has sown fear, officials said. They said pairs of unidentified assailants killed shopkeeper Omer Gunes and office have a specific beauty of the company of the com and coffee-house owner Faik Bara in separate attacks. Officials gave no motive for the murders but some local journalists linked them to a feud between factions of Hizbollah, a clandestine group said to have links with Iran. Kurdish nationalists have in the past accused Hizbollah of working directly or indirectly with state security forces to assassinate Kurdish politicians and people sympathetic to the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The government denies the death squad charges, blaming PKK-Hizbollah rivalry for many of the hundreds of mystery murders perpetrated in the region over the past three years. This year there have been more than a score of streets killings in Diyarbakir, regional capital of the mainly Kurdish southeast, where more than 10,600 people have been killed since the PKK began its fight for an independent state in 1984.

#### Rabin concerned about Zhirinovsky

TEL AVIV (AP) - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday he was worried about instability in Russia, saying wide support for Russian extremist Vladimir Zhirinovsky in December elections was a threat to the Russian Jewish community. "The fact that a man like Zhirinovsky can get such wide public support from the Russian public causes worry." Mr. Rabin told reporters. "Not just because of the sharp anti-Semitism. but because of a world view that envisions an imperial Russia, with all its implications." Mr. Zhirinovsky, who rose to prominence on the strength of his party's strong showing in Russian elections in December, has said he will establish a dictatorship should he be elected president in 1996 elections. He advocates the old borders of the Soviet Union as the borders for Russia, and has envisioned a Russian army conquering Turkey and Iraq to gain Russia access warm water ports. Mr. Zhirinovsky has also said that Jews are to blame for anti-Semitism, has charged that Jews caused both world wars. and har called for exclusively blond-haired, blue-eyed broadcasters o. Russian television. Mr. Zhirinovsky has strongly rejected perastent rumours that his own father was Jewish. "I am concerned about the instability in the USSR, first as a Jew. regarding the Jewish community there." Mr. Rabin said. But he added that his concern was for the long run. not the immediate future. "Central factors are still in the hands of (President Boris) Yeltsin, who takes a more responsible policy." Mr. Rabin said "God forbid in the long run, we should return to a reality of Russian imperialist policy, tsarist

#### Drug dealer, Saudi murderer beheaded

RIYADH (AP) — A Nigerian drug dealer and a Saudi murderer were publicly heheaded Friday. the Interior Ministry announced. The Nigerian, identified as Ahmad Mohammad Taher, was executed in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. In the southern desert province of Najran. Khalid Ben Musfir Ben Dalama Ben Haider was beheaded for shooting to death another man. Yousef Ben Hassan Ben Musfir. The ministry gave no nationality, which usually means a Saudi national is involved. Saudi Árahia is ruled under Islamic law which prescribes beheading for certain crimes, including drug dealing and homicide. The ministry affirmed the government of King Fahd was determined to "comhal by the most deterrent punishment, all kinds of drugs because of the grave harm they cause to the individual and society." Some 70 people were executed last year, most of them on drug convictions. Drug cases mainly involve Pakistanis and Nigerians. The Kingdom has an expatriate community of some five million.

# U.S. urges UNHCR to back Israeli-PLO accord

GENEVA (USIA) — As hope grows that a new era of peace is dawning in the Middle East, the United Nations Human
Rights Commission (UNHRC) to hope that a UNHRC resoluand other U.N. bodies must
tion would emphasise the "turn away from bitter and empty rhetoric," says Geral-dine Ferraro, the head of the U.S. delegation to the commis-

The declaration of principles, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington on Sept. 13 gives "life to the hope that genuine, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab states may, at last, be obtained," Ms. Ferraro told the 50th session of the commission in a Feb. 3 address

Ms. Ferraro, the former congresswoman from New York and Waiter Mondale's vicepresidential candidate in 1984, urged delegates to eschew "hostile words" and to "acknowledge the new reality that genuine progress is being made, step by step, day by day. between Arabs and Israelis."

She called on Arab League nations to "take a first step" toward an era of economie cooperation in the Middle East by setting aside their boycoti of israel.

Progress was already evident at the most recent U.N. General Assembly where discussions were no longer marred by the "pointless vituperation, which in itself, has long constituted an obstacle to progress, negotiation and peace," sbe said.

tion would emphasise the "very positive role" the United Nations can play in assisting the implementation of the declaration of principles.

The resolution should also state that a settlement of the Middle East conflict is "vital for full implementation of human rights in that area," she

"The progress we see on the political front will contribute directly to concrete improvements in human rights on the ground in the occupied territories," she said.

Ms. Ferraro noted U.S. satisfaction that for the first time a UNHRC special rapporteur has been allowed to conduct an investigation in Israel and the occupied territories. and to present his report on human rights abuses in the region to the commission.

"The fact remains that human rights violations continue to occur on both sides," she said. "We in no way condone them."

Ms. Ferraro praised Yasser Arafat's Feb. 1 address to the commission, noting that the chairman of the PLO spoke "not just of the difficulties still facing him. but of the progress that is being made and his hope for success."

ta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tcl. 623541.

#### U.S.-German differences persist on Iran WASHINGTON (AP) - The

United States continues to caution Germany about contacts with Iran, one of very few areas where the two affices "bave some significant differences," says the American ambassador to Bonn.

"We are very concerned about" contacts with supporters of "terrorism," Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke told reporters

The U.S. and German governments have been working quietly on the issue since October, when both Britain and the United States publicly criticised meetings between the Iranian and German intelligence chiefs, he said.

Without any public accusations, "we are working at the problem, exchanging views and information and eliminating misunderstandings and disagreements," be said.

The United States does not object to the European Union. to which Germany belongs, having "a critical dialogue" with Iran, Mr. Holbrooke said. He used Bonn's description of contact with the Iranian secret police, which Germany says belped gain freedom for

nationals. "Essentially we believe that the recent American experience suggests there is very little value and considerable risk in talking to people who support terrorism, and what is done must be done very carefully if at ali," he said.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PD CV	RAMME TWO
17:30	Les Adventuriers De L'Espace
17:41	L'Ecole Des Fars
18:30	Bcaumanboir
19:00	News in French
1 <b>9:</b> IS	Ushuaia
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Family Matters
21:30	The Campbells
	News in English
<u>22:2</u> 0	Postern Films Witnesd Witch Cont.
	Feature Film: "Stuck With Each Other"

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

# **PRAYER TIMES**

#### .... Maghreb **CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annanciation Tel. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Armenian Calbolle Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tcl. St. Ephraim Church Tcl. 771751. Evangelical Latheran Church Tcf: 824328, German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-bay Sonits Tcl. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Am-Tel. 811295 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of

Temperatures will significantly rise during the next two days becoming above average, with winds becoming southeasterly moderate. In Agahwinds will be murtherly moderate and

Min./Max. 1emp, 4 / 16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 21, Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 32 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Hanna Mansour Dr. Nidal Al Mahsiri Dr. Khalit Al Jhali . 74117411 Dr. Salah Al 'Usud . 661912 778334 Al Asema pharmaci 637055 Al Salam pharmacy . 636730 Yacuuh pharmacy ...... 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 Najih pharmacy 

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HOSPITALS

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Al-Muzsher Hospital Al-Muzsher Hospital ... The Islamic, Abdah ..... ... 666127/37 Al-Alıı, Abdali .... ... Amai Hospital ...... 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ... (1998/323 Zarqa National Hospital ... (1998/80560 Ibn Sina Hospital ...... (1998/6732 Al Hikms Modem | losqual . " (ud) adirati maio: Princess Basma Hospital ... (82)275555 Greek Catholic Hispital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)272181 AOABA:

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT** 

> This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Owen Alia International chirport Tel (08)532005, where it hould always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights .. Karachi, Duban (RJ) New Della [KI] New York, Amsterdam [10]

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ent edlected almost JD 40.6 million in Decem-# 1991 from taxpayers, compared with almost 2 36.3 million in December 1992, according to e depirtment Director General Mansour Hadillection constitutes 30.5 per cent of the total nars on the latest teaching techniques, as well as fimates for the year 1994. The total estimates, the latest books available.

in the peace making process. Petra also quoted Dr. Rhein as saying that European assistance was needed to help Jordan shoulder its immense bur-

Dr. Rhein had a separate meeting with Princess Basma and discussed increased cooperation between the Oneen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) and the EU in projects that focus on women in development and incomegeneration, especially for those sectors of society that have been targeted by QAF's activities over the past 15 years.

Dr. Rhein, who was accompanied to the meeting by Fernando De Los Fayois, EU desk officer for Jordan, and Renato Batti, head of the delegation of the Commission of the European Union in Jordan, was briefed on the various development activities of QAF.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Has-san met Dr. Rhein and the EU delegation separately Thurs-day to discuss the Middle East situation and EU-Jordanian relations.

Dr. Rhein paid tribute to the Jordanian role in the Arab-Israeli peace process, stressing the importance of continued backing to Jordan in overcoming difficulties facing the

country in that process. He was quoted by Petra as saying that the EU was determined to do all it could to finance regional development projects after peace in the re-

## Writers association faces strife

By Saida Keilani Special to be Jordan Times

Dr. Rhein, one of the key

· ler Royal Highess Princess

lasma, Prime Mnister Abdul

alam Majali arl Minister of

tate for Foreigi Affairs Talal

At the meerig with Prince

Iassan, discussons focused on

uropean-Jordnian relations

nd the effots to achieve

Dr. Rhein ws quoted by the

ordan News /gency, Petra, as

aying that the EU supported

eace in the Middle East.

Apparently, the JWA administrative body per-AMMAN - President of the Iordanian Writers Association (JW.) Fakhri Ka'war attributes the recent split among JVA members over he assocition's coming elecions to atonspiracy aimed at iestroving the writers group. Mr. Ki'war said that the conspiray is behind the denands owarded by some oember calling for activatng the association. "Everyody sas that the association Mu'nis Razzaz. has don nothing, and this is jot tru," Mr. Ka'war said in rountable meeting held at Al Urun Al Jadid Research Centreoo Wednesday. "The

mergace of these new sloans fightens me ... it is a onspiacy. A nw movement formed vithin the association two nooth ago and known as the yoth initiative commitse," alled upon the JWA dmirstrative body to take juick action against what

hey sw as inefficiency of the ssocition. The committee, which nami comprises about 43 oung writers, called for ing ection new blood into the ssocition and asked the dminstration not to accept ew nembers before the

coming elections; scheduled for Feb. 11.

ceived this new movement and its demands as a conspiracy aimed at undermining the association, Consequently a split occured in the JWA membership and has developed into a scrious clash over the future president of the association. The youth eommittee favours Jamal Naii while the other side appears to be supporting

"At the beginning, we nominated Mu'nis Razzaz, but he refused," said Mohammad Masheh, president of the Cultural and Creativity Club and one of the leading members of the youth committee. "At present, we pledge our support to Jamal Naji and we can not go back on our stand,"

Mr. Masheb told the Jordan Times that the main clash between the committee and the other stream, which is supporting writer and columnist Mr. Razzaz, is politic-

He said that Mr. Razzaz refused at the start to nominate himself for JWA president, but was being pressured by six political parties to run

for the post.

He added that the youth committee's support of Mr. Naji came after Mr. Razzaz's rejection of its nomination.

"We reject the notion that political parties are sull dictating policies within the association and we are not supporting Mr. Razzaz on this basis," Mr. Masheh said. "We don't accept this conspiracy theory either, but we are ready for dialogue ... a calm one.'

Mr. Razzaz, who was present at the beginning of the four-bour discussion Wednesday, agreed and emphasised that political parties should no longer hide bebind cultural and private institutions since they are now legalised and can operate openly,

"But that does not mean that a partisan should not be a member in a certain association ... I personally did not consult my own party when I decided to run for the JWA elections," said Mu'nis Razzaz, who is also the secretarygeneral of the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party.

A panel discussion between Mr. Naii and Mr. Razzaz is scheduled to take place today (Saturday) at JWA beadquarters.

# 8-year-old killed in school bus accident

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - An eight-year-old girl died Wednesday after being run over by a school bus, in Sweifich, a police report

The child, Nour Mustafa, was dropped off at her house Wednesday afternoon by a school bus driver. Neither the driver nor the supervisor who was inside the bus noticed that Nour was caught under the bus when the driver started back on his route.

The bus had dragged the girl about 15 metres before the driver heard her screaming.

The 31-year-old bus driver. identified as M.H., told police he did not notice that he had run over Nour after dropping her off in front of her house. Soon after driving off, he said, he beard screaming and pulled over to see what was

He found Nour laying beside the wheels of the bus covered in blood, he said. Traffic officials who investi-

gated the accident said the victim's clothing had gotten caught in the bus door.

Nour was rushed to a nearby hospital by the bus driver, but she was pronounced dead on arrival. Safety measures introduced

by the Public Security Department (PSD) four months ago stipulate that all bus drivers must attend a driving course to learn the new related procedures regarding school children's safety when descending from school buses.

All bus drivers were instructed that they are supposed to wait and make sute that during loading or unloading children, the children cross the street safely before maintaining their destination.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the blame falls on both the driver for not looking in his sideview and rearview mirrors to make sure the girl had crossed the road safely, and on the superviser who was in the bus during the accident and did not make sute home safely before closing the bus doot.

> Man kills wife and alleged lover

A 25-year-old man Wednesday turned himself in to Mouhajrin Police Station and confessed to killing his wife and her alleged lover, according to police reports.

On Wednesday evening. police found the body of a 32-year-old man, identified as A.A.M., on the sides of Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) Road. Police said the body had several bullet

An hour later police recovered the body of a 21-year-old woman, identified as J.J.H., on Khalda Street.

According to police, the woman was killed in the same manner as the man found on QAlA toad. The suspect, who was not

identified, told police he had discovered that his wife had had a relationship with A.A.M. and he decided to kill them both.

He said that on Wednesday morning he learned that his wife and her alleged lover were together in an apartment in the Wihdat area.

The suspect said he took his wife's father with him and went to the Wihdat apartment where he said, he found his wife and A.A.M. together.

The husband told police he took both his wife and her alleged lover in his car, drove to the airport road, stopped and asked A.A.M. to get out

When the man got out of the vehicle, the husband fired several gunshots at him.

The husband then drove his wife to Khalda area and killed her in the same way, according to police,

The woman was rushed to a nearby hospital where she died Police have recovered both

weapons used in the killings and are investigating the case.

diplomats at the Amman embassy because the large staff was incompatible the Jordanian deplomatic presence in Tehran.

should not affect growing economic and political ties between the two states.

and a number of Iranian administration staff in Amman. The Jordanian mission in Tehran has two diplomats and three ... locally-bired staffers.

sised its concern to improve relations with Jordan, saying the issue should not be seen as indicating any deterioration in

"We want to affirm that close relations between the two brothetly countries in which the spirit of brotherlioess and affection are proceeding

"We have no doubts the wise Jordanian leadersbip carries the same feeling and the recent statements from it are the best evidence for this."

umnist's article last week suggestiog that Iran may be behind the killing of Jordanian . diplomat Wayeb Imran Al

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

rovn Prince receives Omani ninister

MMAN (Petra) - Omani Minister of State for oreigi Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi paid a brief sit to Amman Thursday and conveyed a mesige from Sultan Qaboos to His Royal Highness rown Prince Hassan on bilateral affairs and itemaional issues of concern to Jordan and Iman, Mr. Alawi told Jordan Television later lat the visit was within the framework of the intimed consultations between the two Arab ates. leferring inter-Arab relations, the Omani iniste said his country was working towards thieving reconciliation among Arab states exressin; hope that the joint efforts of King lussen and Sultan Qaboos would result in the spired solidarity.

#### louse to meet on health issue

MM(N (Petra) - The Lower House of arliament convenes today (Saturday) to pursue te disassions on the food and drugs situation. hich he House started last week. In the seantine the Public Freedoms Committee at the louse vill meet Saturday, Sunday and Monday I lister to the views of experts on the issue of nod aid drugs in the Kingdom.

#### ndian tourism minister arrives

MM/N (Petra) - Indian Minister of Tourism d Cril Aviation Gulam Nabi Azad Friday rived here at the head of an offical Indian legaion on a three-day visit to Jordan, during hich ie will hold talks with senior officials on opes of bilateral relations in the fields of urisi and civil aviation. Mr. Azad was received on grival by Minister of Tourism and Antiaities Mohammad Adwan, the ministry's cretary General Ghassan Mufleh, the director mera of the Civil Aviation Authority, Ahmad wibe and Indian Ambassadot to Jordan. A.K. udhinja. Mr. Azad and the accompanying elegaton later visited King Hussein Bridge on Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

# axpiyers dole out JD40.6m in

MMAN (Petra) - The Income Tax Depart-

as appearing in the general budget law for 1994 ate JD 133 m

## Road accidents claim 2 lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Two people were killed and 224 others were injured in 434 road accidents which took place in the various parts of Jordan during the last week of January, according to a weekly report issued by the Traffic Department. The report said Amman ranked first with 213 accidents, followed by Zarqa with 39 accidents and Irbid with 27 accidents. In another development, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) attended to 988 emergencies over the last two weeks, resulting in 26 deaths, according to director of the CDD Public Relations Department Abdul Raouf Al Maaytah. Capt. Maaytah said the emergencies included 103 fires, 864 first aid and 22 rescue cases. He said the majority of these cases were caused by gas suffocation.

#### Family planning symposium begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on communication skills and family planning concepts will be held here Sunday to promote awareness about the benefits of family planning. Participants will discus five working papers on the role of Islam in family planning, dimensions of the population growth problem, health be-nefits of family planning, the role of communica-tions in promoting family planning and the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in promoting public awareness about the benefits of family planning and it methods. The symposium, organised by the Cooperative Institute of t'e Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) in cooperation with the Jordanian Family Planning and Protection Society, secks to promote people's awareness of the dangers of rapid population growth, repeated pregnancies, and benefits of family planning and bteastfeeding. The symposium also seeks to create communication channels between the society and the participants in the symposium and to empower them with dual and collective communication skills, in addition to encouraging them to promote awareness about family planning methods.

#### **Book exhibit opens**

AMMAN (J.T.) - A book exhibition Friday opened at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman organised by the Jordan Book Centte (JBC). The exhibition display products from various international publishing houses and will continue idin. Mr. Haddadin said that last month's through Monday. The exhibition includes semi-

Save water ... every drop counts

## **Environmental activity** to begin in Aqaba harvesting; agriculture and en-

AMMAN(J.T.) — The Jorda nian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP), in cooperation with Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, is organising a one-week workshop on environmental training in case studies in Agaba from Feb. 5-10 at the Agaba Gulf Hotel. An environmental forum en-

titled, "Motor Tires and Engine Oil Waste" on Tuesday at Princess Basma Centre is also part of the programme.

A total of 30 participant non-governmental organisanons representing government agencies, public and private sectors NGO's and JSCEP members in Aqaba are expected to arrend this work-

The programme will tackle: man and nature; local and global state of environment; population growth; environmental home management; water management and water vitonment; industrial occupational safety and environmental protection; development of the Aqaba region and its impact on the environment; saving sea water from pollution; the role of the marine station in life and the protection of the coral reef; ecotourism and envitonment and traffic.

Five environmental case studies will be presented to the participants who will be divided into groups to work on solutions to these problems.

During this workshop a field visit to several environmental sites will be organised. Public and private sectors,

government agencies, factories, NGO's and society members are invited to attend the Tuesday forum on motor tires and engine oil waste. The activity will end on Thursday with final discussions

and reports of the working

# WHAT'S GOING ON

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

- Art exhibition by artist Huda Sami Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fnheis (Tel. 720902).
- \* Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Windawi at the Royal Cultural Centre. Art exhibition by artists Akram Isawi and Jamal Baddawi at
- the Royal Cultural Centre. ⇒ Plastic art exhibition by artist Shaker Abu Ghazaleb at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ☆ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contempor-
- ary artists. (Tel. 643251/2) Art exhibition by artist Makram Khaghandouqah at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural
- Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ☆ Art exhibition by Suha Noursi entitled "Landscapes" at the Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental Gallery (8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.1,

#### CONCERT

☆ Concert by Tunisian singer Lutfi Bushnaq and bis band at the Palace of Culture at 8:00 p.m.

#### GOETHE-INSTITUT OPEN DAY

Open day at Goethe-Institut to provide information on Goethe institutes in Germany and study at German universities by showing films, presenting short lectures, and distributing leaflets (11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.).

# U.S. team expected for talks on moving cargo searches to land

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN --- An official U.S. delegation is expected to arrive here soon for further discussions on Jordan's proposal to move sea-based searches of cargo to the port of Agaba, informed sources

said Friday.
They said the team would hold talks with senior officials on the mechanism and modalities of the proposed landbased inspections and report back to the Clinton administration, which has yet to take a policy decision on the issue.

The proposal was tabled during His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Washington in the third and fourth weeks of last month. Officials said the initial U.S. response was

positive. The plan calls for Lloyds Register of London to set up a base at Aqaba to inspect all incoming and outgoing cargo for violations of the interna-

tional sanctions against Iraq. Until now, the inspections were conducted by U.S.-led warships patrolling the Red Sea, causing severe economic losses for Jordan, whose own imports are subject to the costly delays and higher freight charges levied by shipowners.

According to the sources, Lloyds Register representatives visited Washington last week to discuss the proposal io detail with administration

Comments from U.S. naval officials in the Gulf indicated that the proposal was being circulated in U.S. military circles. 'It would be a step down

for us," said Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Cole. spokesman for the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command headquarteted in Bahrain. "We might leave one ship there for spot checking in the early stages."
The U.S. navy usually

maintains three ships in the Red Sea, focusing their attention on the Tiran Straits, the gateway to the Gulf of Agaba. Other members of the international coalition which contributed forces to fighting Iraq out of Kuwait in early 1991 take part in the inspections on rotation.

The inspection forces, which took up place in August 1990 immediately after the U.N. Security Council imposed the sanctions against Iraq, have so far intercepted 19,350 ships, the bulk of them in the Red Sea.

Of these, 8,450 were actually boarded and inspected by American or coalition naval officers and 440 were denied total entry.

According to the sources, the next step after the American mission's visit to Jordan would be formulating a final mechanism to be in place at Aqaba and recommending it

to the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who addressed the committee in New York on Jan. 27, has said, without specifically mentioning the proposal for land-based inspections, that he found the committee members willing to address Jordan's concerns.

According to Cmdr. Cole. the proposal also includes punitive measures against vessels found trying to violate the sanctions against Iraq.

"The (shipping of cargo) insurance would be forfeited if a ship is found to be in violation of the U.N. sanctions," instead of the diversions to nearby ports that was the maximum penalty faced by ships boarded and inspected at the Tiran Straits. Cmdr. Cole said.

Shipping sources do not expect the new system to take effect in less than six months. It is also not clear who will bear the cost of Lloyds Register inspections.

However, the sources said, if worse comes to worst. Jordanian importers would pay the cost if only because that will be much cheaper for them than continuing to pay the extra \$500 per 20-feet container and \$15 per-tonne freight that they pay for

Aqaba-bound cargo.
"The total amount that will be paid to Lloyds will be less than 10 per cent of the overall Jordanian loss under the present conditions," said a ship-

# Iran confirms embassy staff cuts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iranian embassy in Amman has confirmed that it had cut its staff at Jordao's request emphasised that the decision did not reflect any deterioration in relations.

"The reduction of the number of diolomats falls only under the purely organisational framwork." In a statement published to the local Arabic. daily Sawt Al Shaab, the

embassy said Friday. Officials said last month the Foreign Ministry had asked Iran to cut the number of

Officials said the move

Iran has about 20 diplomats

The Iranian embassy empha-unt

ahead," said the embassy statement.

The embassy statement was prompted by a newspaper col-

# Chinese group ends visit with guarded optimism about trade

By Ian Atalia Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The China Council for the Promotioo of International Trade (CCPIT) delegation ended its trip to Jordan Thursday indicating that it was guardedly optimistic about prospects for enhancing future Sino-Jordanian trade coopera-

Delegation head Ye Bing told a group of Amman World Trade Centre members that 'frankly speaking, we still don't know very much about the Jordanian market."

The CCPIT team Thursday visited the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), the Amman World Trade Centre (AWTC) and the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JED-CO), where it was addressed by Marwan Awad, the secretary-general of the Minis-try of Industry and Trade.

Both the members of the JTA and Mr. Awad empha-sised to Mr. Bing that Jordan wished to see greater equality in the current trade balance

between the two countries. Although official figures vary, Jordan currently imports from China a little over three times in value as it exports there.

"I think that it is our respon-

sibility as well as yours to bridge the trade gap," Mr. Awad told the Chinese team, In that area, he stated, discussions were underway between the two countries on how to structure Jordan's repayments of some \$47 million in debts due to China from foreign aid, and that the loans would be repaid by Jordan

partly in commodities. "Although the amount of commodities involved will be relatively small, it will give us the chance to introduce some of our products to the Chinese Mr. Bing stated at the meet-

ing with JTA members. bowever, that "an actual balance in bilateral trade may be very difficult to achieve." Mr. Bing told the Jordan

Times that "the two countries" economic complementarity is not very large, and Jordanian products suitable to China are

'The key point, and one which we are stressing very heavily to the Jordanians, is that they need to provide us with detailed information and specific lists of suitable products which we could select from. Our attitude is positive," he said, but the bottom line regarding hard benefits of any imported Jordanian commodities to China and their price range still bad to be adhered

Mr. Bing told the Jordan Times that China's economy was currently undergoing nearexplosive expansion, with last year seeing a 12 per cent economic growth rate and an overall foreign trade increase of 18 per cent. "Last year, our total import value reached \$104 billion, a 29% increase over the previous year, so you see that we are looking for suitable products with great urgency."
He said that China's current

main needs were in the areas of technology and infrastructure development, specifically in the areas of air, land and sea transport and transport facilities, telecommunications and communications network development, energy technology and raw materials processing technology, and modernisation of China's agricultural sector.

"All of these are top priorities for China's development. With regard to these areas, China has great demand for import. But the key issue is, once again, what products does Jordan have that are suitable for out matket." At the Amman World Trade Centre, the AWTC's members

told Mr. Bing that one impor-

tant area for improvement in

Sino-Jordanian commerce was

in the field of banking communications. There were no direct routes of correspondence between Jordanian and Chinese banks, and the banks from both sides had very limited knowledge of

each other, which leads to in-

direct and inefficient routing of

bank transactions and transfers, long delays and added Overall, they told Mr. Bing. this present situation cramps trade between the two coun-

tries greatly. They suggested the estab-lishment of a comprehensive communications network between Jordanian and Chinese banks as well as exchange of information between the two banking communities.

They also suggested that the

Bank of China open a major branch office somewhere in the Middle East. Mr. Bing concurred with the AWTC members, saying that banking and its development in China had not kept pace with overall economic growth, and that foreign banks had only recently begun to establish

branch offices in China, and on a limited scope. Wang Yuechun, third secretary at the Chinese embassy commercial office in Amman. told the Jordan Times that in the future, China planned to send trade delegations to the

West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that China was very interested in assisting in the rebuilding of the Palestinian economy and that China's motives in the case were not merely economie, hut political as well, as China had long been in sympathy with the Palestinian people and "their struggle to

#### Syria assails Israel (Continued from page 1)

regain their rights and digni-

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Washington Wednesday that he doubted the negotiations with Syria would make any significant headway unless the format was broadened. The Syrians appear reluctant to do that.

any change in the parameters of the negotiations and insist Israel stick to the land-forpeace format.

The Syrians are balking at

Damascus wants a complete Israeli withdrawal

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## Hawks in pigeon holes

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN peace talks appear to be bogged down once again after the initial brief euphoria triggered by the Arafat-Peres encounter in Davos last week. For a while, the two sides seemed to be on the verge of announcing full agreement on all impending issues between them. That breakthrough, however, dissipated with the intervention of Yitzhak Rabin whose paranoic concerns about security have led him to abort every past effort to build on the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord.

Rabin has effectively dashed hopes that the two parties have finally succeeded in resolving the thorny issues of border control and the size of Gaza when he intervened and called for additional time to check out the painstakingly negotiated agreements between Arafat and Peres. "Certainly in a week," Rabin was quoted as saying Wednesday, "this matter will not be completed ... It will take a miracle, it will take a number of weeks. There are no sacred dates."

In contrast with Rabin, Peres initially seemed more positive about his accord with the Palestinian leader. "It (signing the deal) can be done in a matter of one, two or three weeks no more than that," Peres declared upon his arrival in Washington. What the foreign minister said later, however, remains subject to interpretation.

In any case, what is clear by now is that the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister do not operate exactly on the same wavelength as far as their negotiations with the PLO are concerned. If the Israeli peace effort is left entirely for Rabin to control, not much can be expected to be achieved in view of his stubborn attitude on military-security doctrines.

But if peace is to materialise finally, the Israeli leaders must first get their act together. If Rabin believes so strongly in what he declared in Tel Aviv Wednesday, that Arafat cannot be trusted, then he must have the intellectual courage to say so straight in the face of the Palestinian leader instead of wasting everybody's time. And if this is indeed the case, why did Rabin so ceremonially strike a deal with Arafat last September and signed it at no less than the White House and in front of the

"We (Israelis) have never been able to check whether Arafat keeps his promises," Rabin was qnoted as complaining after the Davos encounter. The obvious thing to say bere is that Israel is not expected to arrive at a peace deal on the basis of "promises" in the first place, no matter where they originate from. The less obvious fact is that Labour cannot move swiftly towards peace if the overriding mentality governing their steps is that of the Likud.

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i blamed the explosions at movie houses in Amman and Zarga and also the assassination of the Jordanian diplomat in Beirut on the Israeli Mossad network. Bassam Emoush, who is also a member of the Islamic Action Front Party, said that the attacks on Jordan fall within a systematic campaign directed against this country which is e.nbracing Islam and democracy. The enemies of Islam and the Arabs are bent on fighting Jordan by killing the country's diple rats, causing confusion internally and weakening the Jordanian economy, charged Mr. Emoush. The writer said that these actions are being perpetrated with the aim of creating suspicion about the Islamists in Jordan and to cause a split within the ranks of the Jordanian society. He said that only through awareness and unity within the Jordanian family can these dangers be warded off and the country protected. The enemies of the Muslims, continued the writer, have been di mayed at seeing an Islamic awakening in this country and he rebeen bent on creating trouble by any possible means. He urged the government and Parliament to work together to foil these hostile attempts from outside

A ''OLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily called public atte 1 on to the danger inherent in the use of the exhausted mot r oil by Jordanian's bakeries. Nazih Qusus said that once the vivice stations have collected a large amount of this oil they will it to certain merchants who in turn sell it to the bakerics. The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company used to do this but has long stopped after it was discovered that the lead ir the exhausted oil was harmful to the bread and public health, continued the writer. He said at present certain people are still practising this trade and causing severe damage to blic bealth, but no authority has done anything to stop them. ' - less the concerned authorities take strict measures and imp. . heavy fines on these traders, the damage to public health is bour. 'n continue and the consumers and innocent

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

# **Preachers of the bullet** should become target

THE ASSASSINATION of a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut last week is indeed of high seriousness and concern to Jordan and Jordanians, who will definitely follow their own course of action to bring the perpetrators to book. It is not a simple desire to exact revenge for the cowardly assassination that is behind the Jordanian determination to pursue the killers: we need to tell those who lurk in the underworld of international terrorism that Jordan refuses to be cowed by attacks on its sons and can and will mete out retribution to anyone who dares to even try to deviate it from its principled path.

A diplomat in every sense of the word, whether in Cairo. Kuwait or Beirut where he fell prey to an assassin's bullet. Nayeb Imran Maaytah had set an example for many in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry as to how diplomacy is conducted and how a diplomat should tread the thin lines of diplomacy. As a person and a diplomat, his death is indeed a loss to

Jordan's diplomatic community.

Mr. Maaytah was the sixth Jordanian diplomat to be targeted abroad since the mid-80s and the fourth to lose his life to an assassin's bullet after Walid Balqaz in Rome. Azmi Mufti in Bucharest and Ziyad Sati in Istanbul. Mohammad Khurma. Jordan's ambassador to India, and Tayseer Touqan, the Kingdom's envoy to Italy, survived the attacks but suffered serious injuries.

Responsibility for some of the attacks was claimed by terrorist groups, while investigations have uncovered the black hands that were behind others. For one reason or another, the man on the street has not been fully informed of the findings if only because of the now-defunct information policy of letting people know what the state felt they needed to know.

I am one of those who give little credence to the claim put forth by a previously unknown group that it was responsible for Mr. Maaytah's murder. It could be nothing but a carefully planted red herring to confuse investigators. We have seen too many such incidents to be taken in by obscure telephone callers and claimants.

There is little doubt that the killing of Mr. Maaytah. Jordan's second-ranking diplomat in Lebanon, was part of state-sponsored terrorism and that is every reason that the world community should take close note of the incident and follow up with broad action.

For one thing, the assassination warrants focus since the very act brings up concern that attacks on diplomats as political messages coold be on a revival course, after having ebbed in the past two or three years, along the same lines of politically motivated hijackings and hostage takings. State-sponsored assassinations as a means to eliminate

political opposition started in recent history when Stalin sent his death squads to kill Trotsky. Since then, the world has been hundreds of politically motivated killings hut did little in terms of collective action to stem them until the 1980s when such actions hit a peak after reaching the shores of the western

But it seems today that the preachers of the hullet are finding fresh support from states that sponsor international terrorism despite repeated experiences that such actions fail to achieve political objectives.

By and large, without state sponsorship and diplomatic umbrellas, it is very difficult indeed for assassins to escape the long reach of the law. As such, it is high time that the international community review its approach to the entire issue of state-sponsored terrorism through setting in place a series of sure-footed, definite, preemptive action.

Short of hard evidence — which, by definition, is difficult to uncover when states and diplomatic channels are involved - it is an impossible task to impose international sanctions to punish governments sponsoring international terrorism. But there are other avenues to block them.

For stariers, the international community could prepare a "diplomatic blacklist" based on available evidence and remain committed to a practice of refusing "agreement" to diplomatic appointments ("agreement" here meaning the host government's approval of nominations of diplomats from other governments).

Strict enforcement of and commitment to the "diplomatic blacklist" would ensure, to a large extent, that those "diplomats" who have had "experience" in organising terrorist activities in the host countries under the cover of diplomatic missions would be denied the opportunity to repeat their performance in other countries.

By no means, however, could the "hlacklist" be an answer to the problem of state-sponsored terrorism, particularly that some of those who sponsor terrorism are always scouting for "fresh talent", but it could go a long way in setting in place a mechanism which would not only function as a punitive measure but also as a preemptive gesture.

Jordan, which has paid a dear price for its consistent and principled approach to regional and international developments and placed pan-Arab interests above its own, will no doubt take the initiative in formulating action to stem state-sponsored terrorism. But it needs the encouragement and support of the international community if its initiative is to

# Food and medicine allegations - 'big noise, little action'

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The controversy resulting from the health minister's allegations about the safety of food and drugs in Jordan continued to dominate the themes in the local press of the past week. Domestic issues, the Middle East and Iraq were other topics covered by the press in editorials and opinion columns.

In tackling public safety matters in light of the minister of health's allegations, a columnist in Al Dustour daily called for a national conference on public health, noting that such a conference is timely and of paramount importance to the Jordanian

Such a conference would not only tackle questions related to food and drugs but also civil defence and matters related to dealing with the consequences of natural and safety at the work place and residential areas, said the

In the view of Mohammad amin, another columnist in Al Dustour, the health minister's allegations were bound to receive support because they are directly linked to every person in the country.

The minister's views are supported by the govern-ment, since the health minister is a Cabinet member, by Parliament, whose task is to defend the public and serve national interests, and by the members of the public, who are directly concerned with the situation, said the writer.

The writer called on the minister to adhere to his stand and provide the Parliament with all the required documents to back his view.

Samir Qitami, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said Dr. Malbas was not the first minister to disclose corruption in his department, noting that Mohammad Alawneh, the former minister of agriculture, did the same thing and that many Cabinet members have declared similar

views in private. But the writer said that whoever dares to disclose anything that might endanger the interests of the so-called sharks and manipulators would be facing trouble. This is obvious from the ongoing fight against the minister and his statements; if the sharks have their way, their power would increase and their monopoly over public life

would continue. In the view of Tareq Masar-weh, a writer in Al Ra'i, the minister of health's accusations of the merchants resembled a shell that exploded with a loud

The writer said that the minister's action and words resulted in committees but not in outright action on the part of the government which possesses all the documents to recriminate the people responsible.

Members of the public in Jordan know very well that the country lacks proper control over medicine and food while the laboratories at the Jordan University Hospital have more than once proved that mothers' milk is polluted by the poisoned veget-ables they eat and that the frozen meat imported by Jordan has no nutritional value at all and the Health Ministry officials know which food factories do not abide by the public health regulations. Despite all this nothing drastic is being done to stop the damage to public health.he added.

Mohammad Subeihl, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that wide-scale advertising for some foodstuffs in the official media and the press is not always in the interest of the public. He said that the only way to provide through legislation that would grant it protection, additional powers to take the merehants to selling of adulterated food and

drugs.

There is no doubt that the health minister's recent state-ments about the merchants' nonabidance by regulations concern-ing public health have aroused the concern of the Jordanian people, said Sawt Al Shaab in an

The paper said that it is for this that this matter has assumed such controversial proportions and made both the government and the Parliament to seriously consider taking mea-

Al Dustour was all praise for the government in this matter, noting that the decision to form two committees to scrutinise the situation reflects a brave stand on the part of the government which is determined to stem malpractices and present the public

Whether the allegations about the merehaots' malpractices were correct or not, one can only demand that the government tighten restrictions on factories and the merchants to ensure that the public interest is safeguarded, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dus-

doing that is to strengthen the hand of the Protection of Consumers Society which can help the government maintain control over quality of products. A columnist in Al Ra'i daily commented on increasing name

ber of handicapped persons born

in the Kingdom. Nadia Dabbas

said that the mere publication of

The writer said that one way of

reports about the handicapped: persons has psychological effects. on the society.
Noting that disability could be

due to hereditary reasons or a mishap during birth, the writer said that these factors can be controlled. What should be pointed out here, added the writer, is the auestion of free choice of spouse before marriage.

The writer suggested that sub-jecting a couple to laboratory tests before marriage should be made into a law, and proper laboratories to deal with such a matter ought to be created so as to avoid having more handicapped persons which adversely affect the country's develop-A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab

daily said that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has been neglecting two important ele-ments in its basic duty. It realises that many of the water networks are worn out and leaking, and yet it is slow in replacing the pipes, and it realises that a great number of people fail to pay their dues for water consumption, a debt that runs into millions of dinars, but it is continuing to supply these subscribers with water and not taking effective measures to collect these dues, said Nazih Ousous.

The writer said that while the public supports the ministry in its drive to search for new water resources, it demands that it pursue its other duties in the best interest of the public.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, demanded that the public in Jordan move to save the lives of a group of kinsmen unjustly being tried in Kuwalt. The trials are unfair and the Jordanians in Kuwait committed no crime but are facing long prison terms and some of them are facing the death penalty, said

The writer said that while the United States claims to be fighting against similar atrocities in other countries, it is condoning such acts in Kuwait.

The government should also take action and work in cooperation with other Arab countries and international organisations to save Jordanians from repression and injustice, demanded the The assassination of Nayeb

Masitab, the Jordanian diploma in Beirut, continued to attract the columnists' attention. Husni Ayesh, a columnist in Al Ra'i. condemned the killing as a The perpetrators of the crime

have, by their actions, reflected by their desire to pursue practices designed to destroy Arab and Islamic countries, he said, calling on the public to remain united and collectively light against those trying to harm in-

George Haddad, a columnist in Al Dustour, expressed the view that the murder of Mr. Maaitah was meant as a way to cause disarray in the joint stand of the Arah parties involved in Such an action was meant to

destroy the coordination that has been going on between Damas-cus, Amman and Beirut lately and to serve the enemy's purposes, stressed the writer. It is important that the public in Jordan and the Arab masses at

large identify the killers of the Jordanian diplomat so that sufficient precautions can be taken against their actions in the future, said Taher Al Udwan, a The writer said it is the prime

responsibility of the Lebanese government to apprehend the culprits, but it is also the duty of every citizen to be aware of the danger and contribute towards foiling similar attacks in the future. He stressed that the criminals ought to be fought on all fronts and by all possible means to prevent them from dictating the: will on the people.

An Arab League decision to convene and discuss prospects of reducing the effects of the under attack by Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in al Ra'i daily. The writer said that there is

nothing to justify such a move at a time when no progress has been made along any of the Arab fsraeli tracks and while Israel totally disregards U.N. resolutions concerning withdrawals from occupied territories.

The meeting planned for March is like asking the Arah countries to commit suicide under the pressure of the U.S.-Israeli alliance, charged the wri-

Israel and the United States are bent on using all their eards to impose their will on the Arabs and force them to accept their humiliating conditions for peace. said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i

As one facet of doing this, said the writer, the United States has just announced its sale of highly sophisticated war planes to the

It is not enough that Israel possesses a formidable arsenal of nuclear and chemical weapons for use against the Arabs, the Americal. .nsist that they continue to cor he the Arabs into accepting Israe" terms or else face the consequences, said the

It is enough for one to read reports about the thousands of traci and Somali children dying every day to realise the magnitude of injustice befalling these two nations as a result of the siege imposed by the U.S.-led western world, said Sultan Al Hattab in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that thousands

of children, women and old people are continually facing death in the name of the international legitimacy supported by the Un-ited Nations which falls under the influence of the western pow-

# Former secretaries of state analyse world flashpoints

By Paul Malamud

WASHINGTON - Four former U.S. secretaries of state warned Jan. 28 that North Korea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are flashpoints and potential pit-falls for U.S. foreign policy. James Baker, Alexander

Haig. Edmund Muskie and William Rogers expressed their views of the state of the world at the "Eleventh Annual Report of the Secretaries of State" conference at the State Department in Washington. On Bosnia, Mr. Haig

cautioned that it is now too late for America to intervene militarily - that the war has become a "bottomless pit." Mr. Baker added that the chance for peace in Bosnia is "over. unfortunately" and there will be a "resolution on the battlefield." Mr. Rogers demurred. asserting that he thought the parties will come to "some kind of peace."

. Mr. Haig warned that "we must not let this conflict spread." To prevent such an occurrence, Mr. Haig said, the West may need to make "major North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) deployments into Macedonia.

Mr. Baker agreed that the world is now at the point with Macedonia where it was with Bosnia before the war began. and he warned that if the conflict "spills over to Macedonia" it will draw in Bulgaria, Albania and Greece. To prevent "a broader European war," the U.S. and its European allies must make "serious, substantial moves (so) that the Serbians understand" the consequences of spreading the war there, he said.

Mr. Haig said the situation is complicated now that the Russians have begun to express "violent opposition to the United Nations resolutions on Bosnia." However, Mr. Baker, said he thought Russia will still join with the West in "putting down a marker with respect to Macedonia." Mr. Baker said a Gulf-war-type coalition against Serb aggression should be "seriously considered...if it gets more unstable we're going to be over there sooner or

later" in any case. The participants agreed the American people will not tolerate unilateral U.S. intervention in the region, but Mr. Haig warned that Europeans will not act without "the leadership of the United States.

On Russia, Mr. Baker said he felt "the resignation of the reformers" in the Russian cabinet bodes "ill for the prospects for reform," and he criticised the administration for "temporising on the expansion of NATO." Rather than the Partnership for Peace concept embraced by NATO, Mr. Baker said the West should "guarantee" NATO membership to former Soviet satellites. Otherwise, he said, "we may be missing a great opportunity."

Mr. Rogers suggested U.S. policymakers can't "walk away" from the results of the Russian parliamentary elections, adding. "We'll have to. show a little more respect for. (Russia's elected) parliament" by focusing on relationships with leaders other than Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Haig warned of a "surge of neo-imperialism emerging from Moscow that has got to recurdle your blood." In his view. Russia is in the process of "regathering" the old Soviet Union together — including such states as Georgia — and is undermining Ukraine. Mr. Haig said it is a mistake to "tolerate" this "without saying a word." "Many of my friends in Europe." Mr. Haig assened. "think Zhirinovsky is a straw man" created by the Russian regime to bring about support in the West for the Yeltsin government.

However, Mr. Baker opined, "it's too soon to say that the reform effort in Russia is dead." noting "there's been a substantial degree of privatisation in Russia" already. Turning to China, Mr. Haig

predicted the administration will not abrogate most. favoured-nation (MFN) trading status because the "China connection" is becoming too important to U.S. business interests. Mr. Rogers agreed. predicting that "the United States will say at the end of the year that there's been improvement" in China's human rights situation, so that the MFN can be maintained. Mr. Muskie

agreed U.S China policy should be "prematic... We can work with" Chinese leader Deng Tsiaopig "and those who are goig to succeed had hand

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On Japan Mr. Baker praised the addinistration fordoing a "good ip" at "forcing open Japanese harkets." but he warned that te real power in Japan lie with the bureaucracy rater than the political leadersh. He added that the United lates has no choice but to mintain good relations with Japa because a long-term "U.S.-loan secur-ity relationship" i crucial to stability on the Acific. Mr. Haig said the Clinth administration has done "sperb work in the area of trad.

Regarding North Korea, Mr. Rogers said "it up to the administration show strength" in dealingwith the North Koreans - tomake it clear "they'll face desuction" if they start a war. M. Baker agreed that "we nee to be really firm in insistingon the observance of interlational obligations" undertaen by North Korea on nuclealissues. The issue of North lorean adherence to non-prolifration regimes, he said, mint be taken to the U.N. Sarrity Council to put politic and economic pressure on Pyon-

Several of the former ecretaries criticised the admitstration for sending troops to laiti and then terminating themission in the face of opposition in Port-au-Prince. However Mr. Baker concluded, it's jet as well the United States "idn't insert lightly armed troops to. enforce some kind of uzzy agreement."

"Both Mi Arafat and Israeli Prine Minister Ytzhak Rabin nave a neck ola lot invested in this agreement and will do e erything they can personally to make it work."

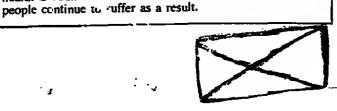
All four former secrearies supported continuing theeconomic embargo against Castro's Cuba and predicted will. soon lead to the downfil of Mr. Castro.

Mr. Haig added the the U.S. military is "unsuite" to solving issues of "values other than interests" in Third Yorld nations and cannot force hem to treat their own peopl bumanely. Mr. Baker arguel that it was a mistake to have rogressed from a humanizian feeding operation in Schalia to one of "nation-building... We got out-bargained by the secretary general of the Uited Nations.'

Mr. Baker said the roent Israeli-Palestine Libertion Organisation peace agreement stems from "the end of the East-West conflict" and rom America's defeat of Ara rejectionism in the Gulf. Mr. Rogers agreed that the stong U.S. defence of Kuwait lave. the Israelis sufficient onfi-... dence in U.S. resolve to take peace. Mr. Haig said the "greatest threat" to the Mddle East peace process is whither Yasser Arafat can "manae his own constituency." He added the danger of swift expassion. of the negotiations to include Syria is that Israeli publicipin-ion might not be ready pr it. and this could lead to a train of the domestic situation in Israel and possible rejection of the peace process

Mr. Baker concluded that both Mr. Arafat and sraeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have "a heck of a lot injested in this agreement" and vill do "everything they can personally "to make it work".

Mr. Muskie added that political stability in the region will get money into the are and create international invistment opportunities that viil benefit all parties. United States Information Agency



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## By Assem Abdel-Mohsen Renter

ADEN - The sign on the door of the luxury hotel in Aden reads "the carrying of junhius and arms is hanned inside the notei. Please hand them over in security.

To the dismay of people in this former capital of South Yemen, the sign is simply ienored by northern visitors who saunter in with janbia traditional daggers protruding proudly from leather helts round their middles.

The carrying of arms, legal in the north and hanned in the south, is a poignant example of how three years of unity have done little to hridge differences developed over many generations between the two parts of Yemen, diplomatic and political sources said.

North and South Yencek had heen separate for hundreds of years and their historical experionces have been different politically, economically and culturally.

"It is difficult to upmost such deep experiences in such a

shart time." one diplomat said. The north, based on its mountain-top capital Sanaa, was ruled by imams who held both religious and political sway over reclusive tribal clans for about 1,000 years until they were swept away in the 1962 revolution. It has since been ruled, with one exception, by a series of military leaders.

The south was under the Othoman Empire for hundreds of years before the 1839 British colonial occupation of the port city of Aden that had been ao outward looking trading post for centuries. It was ruled by a pro-Moscow Marxist secular party from independence in 1967 to the May 1990 merger.

The merger was seen at the time as a dremo solution to end impoverished Yemen's political isolation and jointly develop promising oil finds.

But a Yemeni political source said it soon fell victim to deep mistrust between the conservative leaders of the north

and leftwing secular southerners.

After three years of unity Yemenis

find it hard to live together

This burst into open rivalry last July, paralysing political and economic life and threatening to tear the country apart once again.

A national accord meant to heal the rift was clinched by an all-party conmittee last Tuesday, but there are differences over when it should be signed and where and politicians are privately sceptical about its charges of success.

The Aden man in the street. in contrast, is wondering openly if signing the accord by President Ali Abdullab Saleb. the ruler of Sanaa, and his somheric rival Vice President At Salenc Al Beedb will help improve his deteriorating living standards.

'We were better off before unity. The calue of the local currency has gone down by 40ft per cent since the merger." Mr. Ahdou, a junior civil servant in Aden, said in a typical

Mr. Beedh told a recent

meeting of his Yemen Socialist Party 1YSP1 the economic crisis had "forced many respectable families in the south to search in garbage for some-

thing to eat. Southerners were shown by world hank figures to leave been better off than their more nuncerous northern brethren before the union and despite perennial poverty, enjoyed better health and other ser-

vices under a socialist regime. They now say the size of their former state and its economic resources represent twothirds of the size and national wealth of the mutied country.

"Yet we are being discriminated against," a former south-ern diplomat said. "My salary is one third less than that of my northern colleagues tolding the same rank in the embassy.

Northern sources say southerners hold some 3000000 civil service and public secur jobs in unified Yemen compared with 60 little northerners. Neither figure could be independently confirmed.

But the population of the north is put at 11 million against two million in the √nuth.

The armoes and security forces of the two parts have yet to be fully integrated and two local currencies are still in use. although they have a fixed excharge value. Civil laws and educational

systems are different. The north is dry but there is a hrewery in the south where there is no han on alcohol. The majority of comen in

the north wear thick veils that only show their eyes. Such veils are rare in the south where women are more liberated and many go con in western dress.

"Apart from a unified flag and national authora, tuta appears to be the only thing holding Yemenis together," un opposition source said of the traditional endronlered skirt that most Yemeni neen wrap around their hips.

"What we are doing here me

one else has done. Whatever

we have said has come true.

We are the only ones in the

Mr. Ramovic, whose busi-

ness interests range from box-

ing to modelling, says he does

not approve of current peditical

policy, but has remarkable

confidence in the talents of

Serbia's President Slobudan

Mt. Miloscvie, he said, will

bring Serhian living standards

leyel with Switzerland by the

end of the year and then resign

and hecome amhassador to the

in heavy make-up and a black

outfit to march her wild black

hair, had a slightly different

outlook, predicting that hyper-

inflation would see out 1994.

pleased when the discrepancy

"It's only a matter of a cou-ple of days," he said irritably.

We do not see things dif-

ferently, just explain them in a

Mr. Ramovic was not

His colleagues Violeta Sarie.

Milosevic.

United States.

was pointed out.

# The failure of a human rights bureaucracy

Following is a January 1994 Amnesty International report on the human rights situation in Tunisia:

There are few countries where human rights have a higher profile than Tunisia. Praise of human rights appears in nearly every speech hy nearly every public figure. Human rights are cited daily in press articles. and several major conferences a year relate to human rights. Tunis is the seat of the Institut arabe des droits de l'homme (Arah Institute for Human Rights), it hosts an Amnesty International Section and in November 1992 it was the venue for the African Regional Meeting of the World Conference on Human Rights. At the United Nations, Tunisian officials sit on most of the U.N. committees dealing with human rights. Tunisia has ratified nearly all U.N. human rights instruments and regularly submits, oo time, its reports to the appropriate committees.

Several government ministries contain a unit which specialises in human rights; there is also a principal presidential adviser for Human Rights, an omhudsman and a stateappointed Higher Committee for Human Rights and Basic Freedoms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is apparently to be found in all police stations, and all new police recruits are said to attend human rights courses. Numerous brochures on human rights are printed by government agencies. A human rights medal has been insututed and a special human rights chair created to introduce human rights courses into the country's university law

As a result of its high international buman rights profile, its constact emphasis in speeches on the importance of these rights and its appointment of buman rights officials and commissions, the Tunisian government should have, and is probably widely perceived as baving, an excellent human rights record. Sadly, the reality is very different. The basic rights to life, liherty and security of person and to freedom from torture or arbitrary detention contained in Articles 3, 5 and 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been consistently violated.

Over the past three years thousands of suspected political opponents have been subjected to arbitrary arrest; held in illegally prolonged incommunicado detention: tortured: and imprisoned after unfair trials. At least eight detainces have died under torture.

Safeguards ensbrined in Tunisian law and international standards have been systematically ignored.

The circle of repression, which began in 1990 to 1991 with the wholesale arrest of members and suspected supporters of the Islamic party Al Nahda (Renaissance), has expanded and now embraces members of leftist parties; relatives and friends of those already detained; and human rights activists. The forms of repression are varied and include arbitrary arrest, shortterm detention, administrative control, house searches, repeated summonses to the police station and refusal to issue passports and business

Amnesty International has written a series of reports raising serious concerns in Tunisia over the past few years. The government has responded hy appointing buman rights advisers; a commission of inquiry into Amnesty International's allegations; an ombudsman. But the government has denied the existence of systematic violations; it has participated in a cover-up; it has failed to hring perpetrators to justice and it has, in effect, justified. gross human rights violations against suspected supporters of illegal groups. By so doing the authorities have allowed human rights violations to he committed with impunity in Tunisia,

As human rights have continued to deteriorate it has become increasingly clear that without government determination to enforce human rights standards, the appointment of a human rights hureaucracy or the ratifying of treaties have little effect on the reality of the buman rights situation in the country. The authorities' hoast that no emergency legislation has been introduced should be seen in the light of their systematic failure to respect the safeguards and limits enshrined in the existing Criminal Procedure Code. Members of the security services have committed buman rights violations with impunity. Judges, magistrates and prosecutors, by their silence, acquiescence and failure to investigate violations, have failed to fulfil the solemn obligations of their office. Offi-

cials up to the highest level of

the ministries of justice and the interior have condoned flagrant abuses. The battery of officially-appointed human rights advisers, powerless to prevent violations, spend their time defending Tunisia's human rights record to the outside world rather than defending and protecting those who suffer from human rights abuses in Tunisia.

The country is not unique. In this report on Tunisia, Amnesty International shows how a sophisticated human rights language and highprofile human rights officers can fail to prevent the perpetration of systematic, serious numan rights violations.

Chapter One describes the background to the human rights violations of 1990 to 1993 and the machinery set up in Tunisia between 1991 and 1993, much of it in response to adverse criticism of Tunisia's hnman rights record. Chapters two to four describe in more detail the system which has facilitated human rights violations, particularly prolonged incommunicado detention and torture, and Amnesty International's efforts on behalf of the victims of such violations and government responses in particular cases.

The sentencing of political detainees in unfair trials, often under laws which permit the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, has meant that thousands of people have been iailed uoiustly in Tunisia. Sometimes suspects have been tried several times (some have been tried for a second time in absentia while actually serving prison sentences, or have heen immediately rearrested on release and tried for the same offence). Amnesty International sent observers to trials in 1991 and 1992 and has documented trial violations in two mass trials in the Bouchoucha and Bab Saadoun military courts of alleged plotters in 1992.

The Tunisian government and its human rights machinery have failed to investigate and stop the cases of prolonged incommunicado detention and torture brought to its attention

# Serb psychics say God punishing West for sanctions

By Philippa Fletcher

BELGRADE — The rain and snowstorms which have caused havoc in West Europe and the United States in recent weeks come as no surprise to Milja

She predicted them months ago, along with fires like the ones which ravaged southeast Australia this month and disasters like the oil spill in Puerto Rico on Jan. 7.

Hers is no end-of-thecentury doomsday scenario. hut a forecast of the price the West will pay for imposing international sanctions on Serbia for its interference in the civil war in neighbouring Bos-

Mr. Vujanovic is an actres tumed astrologer. She added Regulus to her name after she entered into a heavenly marstar. She is also a star in her

She has a regular weekly show on Yugoslav Television. one of several clairvoyants who broke into political forecasting after Yugoslavia hegan to fall

apart in, 1991. They should not wonder. those who condomn us today. why nature, sky, carth, water

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein," and "Long live

"We are so happy to see the

King in good health. We have

been awaiting this moment for six months," Captain Moham-

mad A! Khieleh told the AP.

King Hussein told the troops.

always serves so justly and for

peace. We are confident that

yon will keep the peace here."

the King said.
The King shook hands with

all the officers and then joined

them for lunch in the batta-

"We are proud of you."

'We wish that this army

the King."

and fire are judging them. And it will be even worse," she told viewers last week.

Most livelihoods in what is left of Yugoslavia have been destroyed in the economic collapse brought about by sanc-

Star-gazing and faith healing are thriving as hyperinflation eats away at everyday certain-

The crippling effects of the emhargo on health and morale provide fertile ground for professional psychics in a country where superstition has strong

The hlack and white magic practised in mediaeval Europe clung on in parts of rural Yugoslavia through the communist period and has recently found new life.

The psychics claim to have direct links to God and make liberal use of crosses, icons and other religious talismans.

Their musings are targeted at the psychological and physical hruises of a people shunned by the outside world and contain heavy doses of nationalism and xenophobia.

All this makes them a convenient. if sometimes fanciful. counterpart to official propaganda, which hlames the international community for all Serbia's woes.

lion's dining-room.

"I am very, very happy to see the Jordanian U.N.

peacekeeping forces preserve

peace and life in the region.

which is their duty and obliga-

tion," the King told reporters.

flict is coming to an end and

that we will have peace in the

region before too long," he

King Hussein, who was

accompanied by Her Majesty

Queen Noor, was received upon his return home by His

Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan, members of the Royal

family, Prime Minister Majali

"My hopes are that the con-

**U.S.-Jordan** ties consolidated

Ms. Vujanovic tells her viewers the European Union's central computer in Brussels is marked 666, the sign of the devil, and goes crazy when the word "Christ" is punched in.

Americans are unhelicvers. she says, because they pro-nounce God as "Gad" which means "hastard" in Scrhian. Serbs, on the other hand, are depicted as a colestial people protected by God, a fact clearly shown by the divine justice of the last few weeks.

Many people in Belgrade scoff at such extremism, but admit it strikes a chord with a part of the nation whose morale is at an all time low. Sanctions hit the innocent har-

There is no disputing the fact that business is booming in the extra-sensory world. Zoran Ramovie runs an

agency of parapsychologists. hipenergy hearlers and clairvoyants based in a class-walled Belgrade husiness centre.

It claims to find missing friends and relatives, release people from the influence of sects or evil spells and heal illnesses ranging from cancer to the common cold.

Prices start at 50 German marks (\$29), about five months salary for the average Serh, hut that does not seem to put them

(Continued from page 1)

(YSP) have delayed the possi-

hility of the meeting on the

Mr. Iriyani did not spell out

the new conditions but press

reports have referred to YSP

demands that included the

need for "constitutional and

legal guarantees" before the

signing could take place, ex-

plaining that for example the

agreement had to be first en-

On the other hand, the

newspaper Shouri, a weekly

YSP mouthpiece carried a par-

ty denial of any fresh condi-

The confusion was reflected

dorsed hy parliament.

planned date."

Yemeni accord delayed

"I respect her (Vujanovict Last week his office was hut what she's doing is comflooded with people when pletely different," Mr. Ramoagency star Ljuhisa Trgovcevic vic said in an interview punctuannounced he would waive his ared by the ringing of the seven usual 1001 marks (\$57) fee for . telephones on his desk.

fortune-telling. There were so many people. Mr. Trgovecvic was forced to flee an angry crowd of disappointed customers.

"If Trgovcevic had known how many Belgraders haven't got a single mark, let alone 100, and fear for their own fate and that of their families, and do not know where to turn, he would not have made the mistake so easily," said the newspaper Borha.

Three times a week, Mr. Ramovic's staff uppear on tele-vision, and tell viewers about their future. The news is not always good. In a recent show Mr. Trgovcevic told a man his wife would commit suicide next month,

There is some among the psychies, who compete not just for followers, but for cash in a highly commercialised world.

Mention of Ms. Vujunavic's name evokes a careful putdown from Mr. Ramovic. an entrepreneur who says his extra-sensory powers were conferred on him hy a saint living in southern Serbiu.

in the military field.

the north and south.

years of union.

The draft accord specifies

that soldiers must stay in bar-

racks and pull away from cities

where they have spread out. It

also demanded the speedy in-

tegration of military units from

Armed units are still segre-

Southern military units had

gated through the past three

moved towards the oilfields in

their vicinity, and northern

military units in turn deployed

in a manner to cut off further

In Aden, the YSP accused

the northerners of having sent

fresb reinforcements recently

to southern and eastern re-

In a party statement, the

southern Yemenis said their

Basahech Brigade deployed in

the north had meantime inter-

cepted and confiscated on

Tuesday a truckload of Strella

sboulder-fired anti-aircraft

weapons and other arms des-

tined for the northern units

who have deployed in the

reinforcements to them.

## different way." Supply Ministry

#### (Continued from page 1)

quantity and not to sell it in the local market, he said. The ministry presented the issue before the Council of Ministers where some of its members proposed that the quantity be sold to local dairy factories or be re-exported since it was fit for consumption. But the dairy factories refused to purchase

issue again and approved selfing 35,000 cartons to an Arah state. The remaining 10,000 cartoons thought to contain some torn bags were re-examined at GAM laboratory and were still found fit for consumption, he said.

feed calves, and since it was a large quantity the Bakeries Owners Association decided to purchase the other part for use in bread and sweets. Mr. Mheilan said.

He stressed that the Arab state which bought the 35,000 cartons had 62 samples tested at advanced laboratories and found the milkpowder fit for consumption.

The ministry, he said, still has some 3,200 cartons which were returned by that Arah country, hecause they would expire in a short time, emphasising that the ministry would destroy this quantity.

Mr. Mheilan said the ministry would pursue the case at Jordanian courts and had already informed the prosecutor general of the issue.

"Those who are trying to distort the image of the ministry's personnel will have to pay a price for their deeds." he

#### New Bridgestone centre opens

tone centre has recently been opened in Mecca Street here to provide marketing and after sale, services, including maintenance, for the Bridgestone high performance tyres, which are especially designed for high-speed

CSTS. The centre is equipped to assemble and disassemble these tyres and provide wheel-halancing in a short period of time. The new centre seeks to increase mileage

and prolong the tyre's life span through the technical explanation it provides. On this occasion. Director General of Bridgestone's

Middle East Department Oda Giri arrived here Friday on a two-day working visit during which he will obtain first-hand information on the Jordanian market and hold talks with Yanal Bustami. director general of Jamil Bustami and Sons Company in Jordan on marketing the tyres in the Kingdom.

## Arafat may not meet Peres

and other officials.

(Continued from page 1)

Israel Radio that there were differences between negotiators from the army and from

the foreign ministry on tactics. There are different points of view stemming from the different roles," Gen. Barak said, "Our role is to ensure that any agreement ... allows our commanders to know what is permitted, and what is for-

"It is very important to be precise, detailed and clear," he

The chief-of-staff insisted on army control of Jewish settlements and their immediate environs in the proposed auton-

Gen. Barak has gone farther in criticising Mr. Peres, according to reports of an earlier meeting between Mr. Barak and Mr. Rabin published in the daily Yediot Ahronot on Friday. Gen. Barak accused Mr. Peres of eroding Israel's positions on security matters in the

talks with Mr. Arafat. Mr. Peres, in turn, said the army was "almost obsessive" on details. Yediot reported.

Mr. Rahin played down the differences. "In every discussion there are people with different opinions, in the foreign ministry in the security establishment, he said. "We're not discussing issues of principles, but their translation into the everyday."

Gen. Barak suggested Israel force a crisis with Mr. Arafat to make him understand that Israel will not cross certain security lines. Yediot said. "Let's force him up against a wall, one wrapped in cotton wool, but made of steel," it quoted him as telling Mr.

Rahin. Yediot said Rahin was heeding his generals.

It quoted Nabil Sheath, the chief Palestinian negotiator. · describing the situation as the talks in Davos wrapped up: "Almost everything was ready and suddenly Peres said: "I have to make a final call to Mr. Rabin," His face was radiant, he went to make the call, when he returned his face was cresttallen. Katan behaves oddly .. he behaves as someone who acts from anger.

Mr. Arafat's Fatch faction of the PLO called a three-day mourning strike in the Gaza Strip on Friday to mark the army's killing Salim Muwafi, a leading wanted Palestinian underground fighter, the day before. Mr. Muwafi's death under-

scored how the fact that the fighting continuing in the Gaza Strip despite the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord can undermine

"With what is happening in the street, the situation might become worse," Tawfik Abu Khusa, a local Fateh leader, told Israel army radio. "Today it is hard to control the street.

But Fatch leaders denied

that there was an official call to

a return to the armed struggle. Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told army radio that the army would continue to pursue wanted men. while the government would call on Mr. Arafat to restrain Palestinian fighters.

# refutes charges

the ministry to keep this

this quantity, fearing press campaigns which were laun-ehed by "some parties," he

The Cahinet dehate.

Therefore, a decision was issued recommending the use of the remaining quantity to

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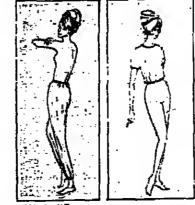
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**GOOD NEWS** 



United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East providing education, health and relief and social services to Palestine refugees requires a

REALITY DATA BASE ADMINISTRATOR louits Supply Division trased initially at its headquarters in Vienna and after July 1, 1995, in Amman. The incumbent will be responsible for the set up and maintenance of all support files in REALITY (a purchasing and materials management software system), including item master catalogue, vendor lists, address fists, currency tables. etc. He/she will also provide on-the-job training to Supply Division staff on the use of REALITY and act as lirst line support for users. The ideal candidate will have extensive expetience in the management of PC data base applications and lamiliarity with purchasing and

supply procedures.

Essentiat qualificationa are: 1. University degree in business administration or computer science.

Minimum live years experience in application of the knowledge acquired above 3 PC and Novell Lan experience, including basic hardware opera-

4 Familiarity with data base management concepts. 5 Fluency in English and Arabic language. Starting monthly salary In Vienna is AS40,938 plus allowances Applications before 28 February 1994 to.

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tions equally from men and women. Normally many applications are received. We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom the agency has a lumber interest.

it.

# Currency dealers see dollar reaching DM 1.85 and yen strengthening to 105 per dollar

This article is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

#### Overview

3: Fundamental view: The U.S. dollar lost ground against both the Deutschemark and the yen this week. Dollar weakness against the mark can be attributed to expectations that Fed tightening will A come later than previously expected, and the view that the Bundeshank will not raise official rates of this Thursday's council meeting. But we continue to expect a 50 hasis point cut in German prates this quarter, and a 25 basis point rise in U.S. rates in the second quarter. As three-month German rates fall from 5.7% to 4.0% in 12 months, we expect the DM to reach DM/\$1.85. Yen strengthening has been due to increased pessimism regarding prospects for a U.S.-Japan trade agreement. If measures to open Japan's market to imports are unsuccessful, the hurden of reducing Japan's huge current account deficit would fall on the further yen appreciation. We expect the yen to strengthen to 105 : JPY/\$ in 12 months in light of slow progress in correcting Japan's trade imbalance.

. Technical view: The dollar was generally on the defensive during the week ended Jan. 28 as the greenhack posted week-to-week a losses against four of the six currencies we most regularly discuss. in the end, the dollar index lost 0.2% for the period. At this point, momentum for the index appears to have peaked and sentiment is viewed as being generally overbought. These conditions, together with the inability to penetrate important resistance at 97.50-98.00, imply that an important medium term top — marking the end of the rally from last September's low may be at hand. Thus, the medium term outlook continues to favour the currencies. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with benchmark support at 90.29.

#### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The Japanese yen continued to strengthen against the dollar this week, moving to 108 yen/dollar. The U.S. and Japan have failed to resolve trade differences, and markets have become increasingly pessimistic regarding prospects for an agreement in time for talks between Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Clinton on Feb. 11. Japan's current account surplus, at \$132 billion in 1993, is far above politically acceptable levels. If measures to open Japan's domestic market to imports are unsuccessful, the hurden of current account adjustment would fall on further yen appreciation. Friday's compromise between Mr. Hosokawa and the LDP on political reform legislation is another plus for the yen. Increased political cooperation should lead to a strong fiscal stimulus programme, which would support the stock market and keep bond yields higher than otherwise. The result would be increased capital inflows from abroad. We expect the yen to strengthen further to 105 yen/dollar in 12 months.

Technical view: The Japanese yen gained 1.4 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, and was the strongest currency of the six we most regularly monitor. At present, short term sentiment is neutral and medium term readings remain oversold. Short term momentum is upwardly biased, but medium term oscillators are only now bottoming. This evidence, plus the fact that last week's strength was enough to at least temporarily break through the five-month old downtrend channel, suggests that the underlying long term uptrend is reasserting itself. The ability to hold support at 113-114/U.S.\$ also adds substance to this possibility. The rally in recent days through 108 implies continued strength toward 105.50-106.

#### Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The dollar fell back to DM/\$1.73, losing its upward momentum. Dollar weakness can be traced to the view tht U.S. interest rates will not be raised as quickly as was previously expected. The resignation of Fed vice chairman David Mullins, who is considered an anti-inflation hawk, may have reinforced this sentiment. The overwhelming view from Germany is that the Bundesbank will not cut the discount rate at this Thursday's council meeting. While U.S. and German monetary action may not be imminent, we continue to expect a 50 basis point cut in German rates this quarter, and a 25 basis point rise in the U.S. federal funds rate in the second quarter. News on wage and consumer price inflation in Germany continues to be surprisingly positive, and the U.S. economy appears to have maintained strong momentum in January following fourth quarter growth at a 5.9% annual rate.

We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0% or less by the end of this year compared with 5.7% currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.80 level in 3

Technical view: The Deutschemark rallied 0.6% versus the U.S. dollar last week. Short term sentiment is near overbought, but the important medium term readings remain oversold. Although short term momentum is in an uptrend, medium term oscillators are still bottoming and have not yet broken their downtrend. That could occur this week. All of this generally bolsters the argument that a currency low is being put into place. Important support remains indicated in the area of 1.755, with resistance at 1.65-1.66. The mark/yen cross moved below 63 last week to the lower end of its multi-month trading range.

This potential support is important because, though not oversold, medium term momentum for the cross is evidencing signs of bottoming. Given that both individual currencies are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar in coming weeks, this bottoming process raises the prospects for potential DM relative strength in a generally firm currency environment. While 60 remains important support, resistance in the 65.50-66.50 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout.

#### Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound backed down from its six-mouth high against the Deutschemark, trading at DM/GBP 2.59. This week's depreciation cannot be tracked to any fundamental factors, although data on foreign exchange reserves suggest that the Bank of England may have intervened against the pound. Greater signs of economic strength - continued improvement in the labour market and evidence of buoyant consumer spending — have reduced market expectations of prospects for a cut in base rates. Concern about job security is a major factor inhibiting consumer sentiment, and improved prospects for

employment should balster confidence. We believe base rates will be cut by 50 basis points later in the second quarter, once the impact of April 1 tax increases is assessed. But rates will decline by much less this year than in Germany, leading to pound appreciation against the DM. We are expecting a rise in the pound to DM/GBP 2.65 in three months and DM/GBP 2.70 at six- and twelve-month borizons, If the pound rises much beyond the DM/GBP 2.70 level, the Bank of England would be pressured to cut rates 10 protect the competitiveness of U.K. exporters. Plenty of slack capacity should limit concern of stimulating demand-driven inflation. The pound was little changed against the dollar this week, trading near U.S.\$/GBP 1.49. We are forecasting pound depreciation against the dollar to U.S.\$VGBP 1.46 in 12 months as U.S. short-term interest rates rise by 50 to 75 basis points by the end of 1994.

Technical view: The British pound rallied almost 0.3% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 28 and in the process moved to the top end of its long-standing 1.47-1.51% U.S.hrading range. Sentiment is neutral to near oversold. However, medium term momentum remains constructive. All in all, our longstanding support/resistance parameters remain unchanged: A break down through \$1.46-\$1.47 would imply a potential test of important long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42, while a rally through \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of long term resistance at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate may be peaking. The recent trading range has been accompanied by deteriorating momentum.

If this deterioration continues, a decisive hreak of 2.60 could allow for 2.58, then 2.53-2.55. While 2.68 is still nominally possible, important resistance at 2.62 has to be monitored closely.

#### Swiss franc

Fundamental view: The Swiss franc is little changed against the DM since a week ago, trading at SF/DM 0.84. But the franc appreciated to SF/U.S.\$1.47 as a result of dollar weakening. The franc remains near a multi-year high against the DM due to indications of continued economic recovery, led by private consumption. Consumer confidence has improved steadily in recent months. This stands in contrast to the apparent "double dip" pattern of Germany's recession. German industrial production hit a new cyclical low in November.

We expect substantial cuts in DM short-term interest rates over the next twelve months -- 170 hasis points -- but no change in Swiss rates. This would leave both rates at 4.0%, with a risk that German rates may fall further. Our 12-month forecast calls for further strengthening to SF/DM 0.82. We expect the franc to depreciate to SF/U.S.\$1.52 in 12 months, as short-term U.S.\$ raters rise modestly in 1994 against a backdrop of healthy economic growth.

Technical view: The Swiss franc fell almost 0.3% against the U.S. dollar last week and remains within its trading range of recent weeks. Short term sentiment is neutral, while medium term measures are near oversold. At the same time, short term momentum appears to be peaking even as medium term oscillators are constructive. Thus, despite some possible near term weakness, the prospects for a medium term rally appear to be reasonably good. In that regard, a rally decisively through 1.435 SF/U.S.\$ would allow for a test of this October high at 1.39-1.40.

Even taking this into account, the dominant (from September 1992) downtrend remains intact and has eventual objectives to (and possibly through) 1,535-1.545, with intervening support at 1.50-1.51. The DM cross-rate has recently been below .84. but short term rates of change are now upwardly biased, implying at least a near term rally. However, medium term momentum oscillators remain weak. As long as that-remains the case any upcoming strength is likely to be temporary. In that regard, a test of the 1990 low near .81 may still be forthcoming. Resistance exists at .865-.87.

#### Canadian dollar

Fundamental view: The Canadian dollar depreciated to CS/ U.S.\$1.31 this week -- close to mid-December's six-year low of CS/U.S.\$1.34 — despite news of strong gains in consumer and business confidence. The Bank of Canada intervened to prevent further weakening. We continue to view the CS as having overshot its fundamental value. The CS should gradually take back losses incurred since March 1993 as the foreign exchange market is reassured by favourable news regarding the federal and provincial deficits. Our fiscal optimism stems from expectations of strong, export-led growth in 1994. According to OECD, Canada's budget deficits are more cyclically sensitive than those of any other OECD country. We project 3.2% GDP growth in 1994, with risks to the upside. Signs of a pick-up in the U.S. economy reinforce our optimism regarding prospects for Canadian exports. Further supporting the C\$ are bond yields above those in the

major European currencies and unit labour cost growth well below the U.S. pace. Our 12-month target remains at CS/U.S.\$

Technical view: The Canadian dollar fell 1.0% against the U.S. dollar over the past week, making it the weakest of the six major currencies we most regularly monitor. Short term sentiment is constructive, and although medium term readings are only neutral, they have been deteriorating. While 13-week rate of change oscillators have been constructive, there are signs of deterioration and the inability of the currency to respond in recent weeks is a potential sign of weakness.

Nearby support exists at 1.35 C\$/U.S.\$ and \$1.365. Medium term resistance remains at 1.24-1.25, with intervening resistance at 1.28-1.29. The DM/C3 cross-rate moved under 1.32 last week, and like the DM/U.S.\$ cross-rate, momentum is peaking. While an eventual test of 1.35 or higher remains possible, an intervening correction (with support at 1.25-1.26) would not be terribly surprising.

#### Australian dollar

Fundamental view: The Australian dollar continued to rally last week, moving to just above U.S.\$/A\$0.71. The A\$ has now strengthened by 10% since the beginning of October. The A\$ is being supported by good GDP growth prospects, strengthening commodity prices, favourable current account news, and bond yields that are now above those in the major European currencies. Australia's economy is expected to grow by 3.5% in 1994 — with a chance of reaching 4% — much better than in Japan or in most of Europe. Positive news on the budget deficit this week is a reflection of stronger GDP and employment growth. The CRB index has risen by 3% since December, and by 10% over the past six months. Australian commodity prices bave risen considerably from September lows.

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The A\$ will be especially sensitive to the condition of Japan's ecooomy, the destination of 25% of Australia's exports. Australia's current account has been improving over the last six months. We expect the A\$ to appreciate further to U.S.\$/A\$ 0.73 in twelve months on the strength of improving prospects for

Technical view: The Australian dollar advanced 0.9% relative to the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 28, making an eight month high. Moreover, the currency could be on the verge of breaking a multi-year downtrend. In fact, the currency has now broken through a trendline that had been in effect since late 1991. While there is important chart resistance in the .70-.72 U.S.\$/A\$ range, if this area is penetrated, probabilities would significantly increase that the entire post-1988 downtrend was finished and that a new long term uptrend had begun.

The currency is now testing that range, but given the overbought nature of momentum, a reaction may be forthcoming. While benchmark support exists at \$.65-\$.66, there is important intervening support at \$0.68-\$0.69.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This is a good day for engaging in activities that you truly enjoy and to strengthen your philosophy of life so that your future becomes more satisfying as you develope fascinating new plans for the days ahead.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) In your desire to have a good time, be careful that you do not force good friends who may have more pressing matters on hand.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day to get any civic duties accomplished in a most efficient and exact manner. Thus you gain much prestige, but inadvertence would be unfortunate.

GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) Out into the fine, leeming world of activity and progress early today, since there is every oppor-tunity to meet wonderful people, learn about new trends and sys-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A good opportunity is yours now to confer with trusted dvisors and experts who can solve whatever problems may be yours at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Getting together informally with associate on this free day can bring about fine rapport and do more to help your chances for success in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A very good day to put all those tasks behind you that have been accumulating, espe-cially if you employ labour-saving devices on your tasks. LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Having a wonderful time should be uppermost in your-mind today and tonight, so be sure you see beautician or barber early in the morning to have fun.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Getting abode in better order and scrupulously clean should be uppermost in ter harmony with those living with you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day for much activity — first getting surround-ings in order, then shopping, visiting with good friends, seeing those difficult to reach during week, etc.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study well surroundings, real estate in the morning and plan what has to be done in order to increase its value and

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think over carefully just what it is you want most in life from a personal angle and then take the right steps that will lead you in such direction.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) It is very important that whatever you do today be ethical since much behind-the-scenes activity can be very trying and only if you work on God's side can it be successful.

# Americans face fight for Vietnam market share

:HANOI (R) — U.S. firms. now given free rein to do business in Vietnam following the lifting of Washington's trade lembargo, will have to fight for their share of a market in wbich Asian and European competitors have a firm footh-

But there is room for the Americans as well as their rivals from Taiwan, France. South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and other countries with considerable investments here, businessmen and Vietnamese officials say. With U.S. firms on the side-

lines, non-U.S. investment of \$7.8 billion has been pledged for 850 projects in Vietnam. The government is looking for foreign direct investment of 1,2000 to sustain the upgrading

\$12 to \$15 billion by the year of crumbling infrastructure, industrialisation and annual ecohomic growth of eight per cent.

"It's going to be a scramble

here," said Eugene Matthews, an American businessman who has lived in Vietnam since 1990. "The country's so young in its economic development, there's room for everyone in every field."

But companies coming in fresb after President Bill Clinton's scrapping of the threedecade embargo on Thursday face an uphill

Firms already in place have a big advantage and will intensify their operations to compete with newcomers. Mr. Matthews, president of the Ashta International investment firm, said. Start-up costs are much greater than they used to be.

Few residents expect a big rusb of American money, though U.S. brand names and advertising could suddenly become more prominent and more U.S. businessmen will come in to assess prospects.

A senior Vietnamese offi-

cial, Dr. Nuyen Mai, pinpointed oil and gas, construc-tion, property, banking, agricultural equipment, manufacturing and consumer goods as areas in which U.S. firms have good prospects.

But they might be cautious in moving in because of Vietnam's poor infrastructure, Dr. Mai said.

Some had claims to assets in former South Vietnam, lost when the Vietnam war ended in 1975, and would want to resolve these before moving onto new ventures. Talks between the two governments on claims are expected to start later this month.

"We hope that, although they may return to their socalled old market in the south or penetrate new markets in the north, they will take time to study and understand the situation here," Dr. Mai said.

The upgrading of roads,

ports, telecommunications, bridges and other basics is a top priority, and one where U.S. firms could score. The World Bank and Asian

Development Bank plan con-cessional loans to Vietnam, mostly for infrastructure projects, of over \$1 billion each over the next three years. More than 30 U.S. com

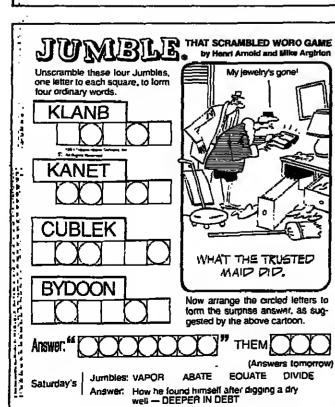
panies - some represented by their subsidiaries in Singapore, Bangkok or Hong Kong — have opened offices in Victnam, including big names like Citibank, Bank of America, General Electric, Baker Mackenzie, Caterpillar, Philip Morris, IBM, Digital Equipment Corp. and Motorola.

Under relaxations of the embargo by Mr. Clinton and

his predecessor George Bush, they bave been able to negotiate and sign contracts for implementation now it has been



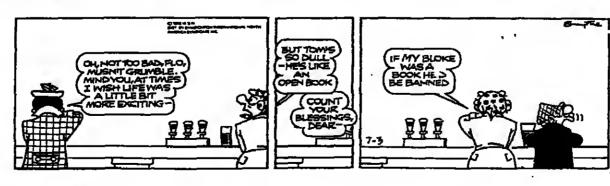
"You're supposed to give me 10 hugs a day. Today you have to give me 2,183 hugs to catch up!"



#### **Peanuts**

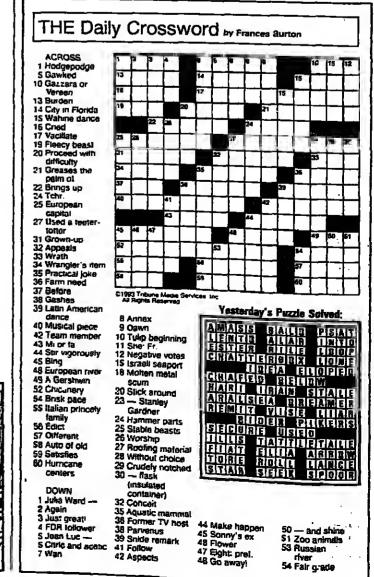


#### **Andy Capp**



#### Mutt'n'Jeff





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MOSCOW (R) - Anatoly Chubais, the last radical refor-PREV. OPERING CLASION CLASSING PAICE PRICE 88 TCE aside monetarism and warned of catastrophe if inflation re-

mained high. not acceptable for Russia," Mr. Chubais, deputy prime minister in charge of privalisation, told a news conference. per cent by November or December, it would be a complete catastrophe for reforms."

"Monthly inflation jumped

per cent from a year ago. Mr. Chubais acknowledged that his was a lone voice in the new cabinet after reform chief Yegor Gaidar and monetarist Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov resigned last month in protest at the power wielded by more conservative col-

"Gaidar's departure has

mer in Russia's government, has eballenged more conservative ministers who want to cast threat to reforms.

"Double-digit inflation is "If inflation is still above 10

to 22 per cent this month from a 1993 low of 12 per cent in December, accompanied by a slump in industrial output of 25

Reformist Russian minister warns of catastrophe

weakened the government," Mr. Chubais said. "There is a

The defection of radical reformers has triggered fears that Russia could suffer hyperinflation under the new cabinet led by centrist Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

cates "non-monetary" means to beat inflation, stresses support for ailing state industry and suggests introducing price and wage controls. His pledges to stick to the

Mr. Chernomyrdin advo-

path of reform, to reassure Western political and business leaders, have met with a lukewarm response at home and abroad.

The deputy prime minister in charge of agriculture, Alexander Zaveryukha, is pressing for generous farm subsidies. There are also reports that the government is about to honour financial debts to the mining industry - another financial

"black hole" for reformers. Oil workers in western Siberia are threatening to strike because they have not

been paid for months. The central bank and its chairman, Viktor Gerashchenko, advocate cheap credits to industries and ex-Soviet republics to help their imports from Russia.

"The central bank has a good iradition of preparing packages of anti-reform proposals," Mr. Chubais said. "Such proposals include a fixed exchange rate... those people behind such proposals should be fired."

Mr. Gaidar and Mr. Fyodorov say the government does not have the political authority to make deflationary policies

They warn that populist policies advocated by Mr. Cher-nomyrdin and fellow eonservative ministers will lead 10 falling oulput.

Russian media reports say

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the government is considering fixed prices and wages, which were suggested in a recent report drawn up by Soviet-era economists who called for stronger price and wage controls and payment of debts and

overdue wages. But Mr. Čhubais sought to allay such fears.

"Neither Mr. Chernomyrdin nor the government can accept these recommendations to freeze prices. This document is so weak that it hardly deserves any analysis," he said.

Meanwhile, in the madhouse called the Russian economy. everybody owes something to somebody else.

The process starts with the state, continues with local authorities and ends with farms. firms and individuals. Nobody pays and nobody gets paid. Bills mount and factories close. Russia is deep in debt.

"I don't think anyone has really worked out what mutual indebtedness totals in Russia right now," said one Western

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diplomat. "And nobody really knows what to do about it either."

Economics Minister Alexander Shokhin said this week that firms owed the government 17 trillion roubles (\$11 billion), but the government owed firms about the same amount.

The energy sector says con-sumers owe it 10 trillion roubles (\$6.5 billion). Farmers say the state and commercial firms owe them up to 1.4 trillion roubles (\$900 million).

"Factories are just running up 10U's," said an economisi. "It has happened before but this time it is more serious because stocks are much lower and the impact is more."

Economists say the cause of the problem is a combination of a government decision last year to defer as many payments as possible and a headin-the-sand attitude from firms convinced that the government

will one day bail them out. But the results are catastrophie, both for the economy and for a government robbed of essential tax revenue because nobody can be bothered

to pay. The first elue to the dire economic impact of the rising debts emerged this week when the State Statistics Committee said January industrial output was 25.5 per cent below yearago levels, compared with a 16 per cent drop in the previous

month. "Factories are simply closing because they cannot afford to pay for fuel or spare parts." the economist said.

Lada cars, which closed for some of December and the whole of January, was one of the best-known victims, but bundreds of other plants have also closed. Local authorities have rationed fuel or reduced heating because they cannot pay their bills.

Mr. Shokhin said nonpayment of taxes meant that the government would not be able to lower taxes as it originally hoped to do.

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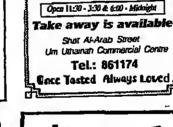
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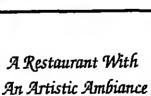






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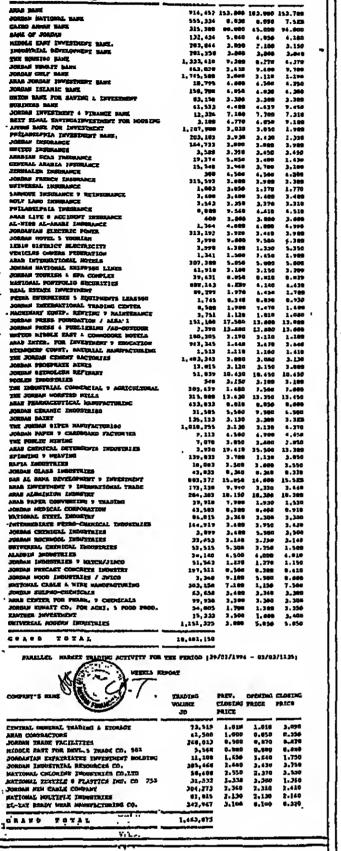






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**Jordan Times** Financial in co-operation with Markets Cairo Amman Bank



Eurocurrency Interes Currency	t MTH		6 MTHS	(2/1994 112 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.25	3.37	3.75
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.19
Deutsche Mark	5.87	5.68	5.50	5.12
Swiss Franc	4.12	3.93	3.75	3.62
French Franc	6.31	6.18	5.67	5.43

6.31	6.18	5.67	5.43
Exchange !	Race Bulle	cin Date: 3/	2/1994
	Bid		Offer
	0.7020	0	.7040
	1.0477	,	. 0529
	0.4044	0	.4064
	0.4827		. 4857
	0.1191	0	.1197
		Bid	Exchange Race Bulletin Date: 3/ Bid  0.7020 0  1.0477 1  0.4044 0  0.4827 0

Per 100		
Belgian Franc		*****
Italian Lira*	0.0415	0.0417
Swedish Krona	****	•••••
Dutch Guilder	0.3609	0.3627
Japanese Yen -	0.6377	0.6509
French Franc	0.1191	0.1197
Swiss Franc	0.4827	0.4851
Deutsche Mark	0.4044	0.4064
Sterling Pound	1.0477	1.0529
	0.7020	

14 1-2			
Other Currencies	Date: 3/2/1994		
Систепсу	Bid	Offer	
Behraini Dinar	1.8420	1.8580	
Lebanese Lira	0.040575	0.04176	
Sandi Riyal	0.1869	0.1877	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3460	2.3650	
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1915	
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.8000	1.8160	
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915	
Greek Drachma*	0.2755	0.3145	
Cypriot Pound	1.3525	1.3725	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3278/88	Canadian dollar
0,00.02,00	1.7417/27	Deutschemarks
	1.9513/23	Dutch guilders
	1.4531/41	Swiss francs
1	35.90/94	Belgian francs
	5.9072/22	French francs
	1689.8/1.3	Italian lire
	108.30/40	Japanese yen
	7.8548/48	Swedish crowns
	7.4800/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.7579/29	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4890/00	

\$388.50/389.00

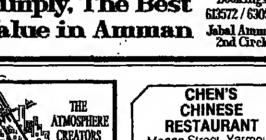


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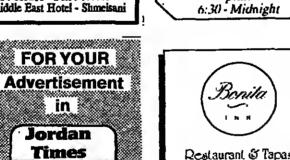
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**Festival** 

to showcase East Europe

BERLIN (AP) — The 12-day Berlin Film Festival will pay tribute to screen legend Sophia

Loren and the late Erich Von Stroheim, the Vienna-born actor and director of the Holly-

wood classics Greed and The

Wedding March. Two-thirds of

the 22 film vying for the festiv-

al's highest bonour, the Gol-

den Bear Prize, are European, Competitors include Jim Sher-

idan's "in The Name Of The

Father, a British-Irisb produc-

tion starring Daniel Day-Lewis about a father and son's

wrongful imprisonment for an

IRA bombing. French director

Alan Resnais is in the running

with two films Smoking and No Smoking — which chart twist-ing paths in human relations

and are based on an Alan

Ayckhourn play. Only two U.S. films are in the main

competition: Jonathan De-

mme's Philadelphia, about a

man who fights back after being fired because he has

AIDS, and Peter Weir's Fear-

less, about aircrafts disaster

survivors. A joint Russian-French production, Semion Aranowitsch's The Year Of

The Dog heads three Eastern

Eoropean challengers. Shot in

Moldova, it treats homeless-

ness with a Dosto yevsky-like

eye, said Festival Director

Moritz De Hadeln. Hundreds

of feature, documentary and

experimental films are being

shown out of competition, in-

cluding children's films from

Mongolia and South Africa. A

Mongolia and South Arnea. A restored copy of The Great Gabho, Voo Strobeim's first sound film, will be among 12 films making their world premieres. The festival opens on Feb. 10, and Ms. Loren is due

to receive an Honourary Life-

Achievement Golden Bear on

Feb. 17. Jack Valenti, president of the U.S. Motion Pic-

ture Association, is likely to

stir controversy during his

planned appearance. He has

led the fight to lower European

restrictions to Hollywood

movies. European culture

ministers are to gather at the festival on Feb. 19 to discuss

the industry's trans-Atlantic ade fend. Other Golden Bear andidates include: The Blue

one by Germany's Lienhard

Wawrzyn, Back to Square One is

by Germany's Reinbard

Muenster, Sparkling Fox, a

Chinese-Hong Kong productus tion by Wu Zi-Niu, Hwaom-kyung by Chang Sun Woo of

South Korea and Shelter Of.

The Wings by Buddhadeb Das-gupta of India, The Third

Bank Of The River by Nelso

Pereira Dos Santos of Brazil

duction Fresa Y Chocolate by

Tomas Gutierrez Alea and

and the Cuban-Mexican pro-

Holm ten

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# Mandela calls on S. Africa's whites to prevent civil war

## Buthelezi: Vote concession is not enough

SASOLBURG, South Africa (R) - Nelson Mandela appealed to white South Africans Friday to condemn right wing threats of civil war and violence.

"If whites stand up in sufficient numbers, especially Afrikaners, and say we condemn this violence, we condemn this threat'... people will listen," the African National Congress (ANC) leader said during a campaign visit to the Orange Free State.

Speaking to black and white workers at Sasolburg, site of an oil-from-coal refinery, Mr. Mandela said it was up to whites to make a determined stand against extremists.

'There are men and women. organisations in this country openly threatening violence." Mr. Mandela said, citing leaders of the white separatist Afrikaner People's Front.

Both blacks and whites would die if the right wing carried out its threats, he said, adding that all South Africans should do whatever necessary to prevent the country from becoming another Bosnia or Somalia

Mr. Mandela said it was significant that he had been welcomed to Sasol by its managers "in view of the past relationship between ourselves in the form of Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK) and its activities

'We're working for the new South Africa together now," Guerrillas of MK, the ANC armed wing, blew up a refinery run by the Sasol company during the struggle against white

Major

getting

tough

and scandal.

at his words.

ment.

hailed for

LONDON (R) - Conserva-

tives Friday hailed Prime

Minister John Major's new

tough approach with party re-

bels but conceded the govern-

ment faces an uphill struggle to

overcome its image of division

The mild-mannered Major

sent a stern message to the

ttered party Thursday, tell-

ing them to stop sniping or face

defeat at the next election.

About 200 parliamentarians

stamped their feet in approval

But not all the rebels in a

party riven by factions agreed

to toe the line. Right-winger

Edward Leigh said this "read-

ing of the riot act" would not

stop him criticising the govern-

Telegraph highlighted the par-

ty's unpopularity after almost

15 years in power. It showed

nearly two thirds of voters felt

"the Conservatives these days

give the impression of being

very sleazy and disreputable."

Mr. Major tried to restore

bis authority at last October's

party conference but in the

new year the government was

bit by financial and sexual

scandals that ended three

His leadership could come

under renewed fire if, as ex-

pected, the Conservatives fare

badly in local elections in May

and European parliamentary

Angered by bickering and back-biting over his vacillating

leadership, Mr. Major dismis-

sed right-wing calls for a cabinet reshuffle Tuesday and

48 hours later told rank-and-

file Conservative members of

parliament: The sniping has to

stop."
Warning that errant or dis-

loyal ministers would be sack-

ed, he called for an end to

anonymous criticism from a

party split by right and left

factions and divisions over

"I will stop reading the pap-

ers if you will stop talking to them." Mr. Major told the

'Sir Marcus Fox, head of the

group that Mr. Major addres-

sed, told BBC Television: "It

was a very blunt message. But

it had to be said because of our

standing in the polls and be-

cause we should get some cre-

dit for getting out of reces-

Party Chairman Sir Norman

Fowler said: "What concerns

the prime minister and what

concerns me still, is that unless

we are careful we are letting

down the party in the country,

the people on the doorsteps

and the councillors."

elections in June.

embarrassing resignations.

An opinion poll in the Daily

minority rule.

The armed struggle was suspended four years ago when President F.W. De Klerk legallised the ANC, released Mr. Mandela from jail and began dismantling apartheid. The process will culminate in South Africa's first all-race elections at the end of April.

Mr. Mandela said it was essential that peace and stability return to South Africa to prevent the drain of skills, expertise and capital.

"Try and build peace because without peace we'te not going to get investment from abroad and local busioesses are going to export their capital."

He said the National Party was a lame duck admininstration which had only bankrupt policies to offer. Few of the nominees on the National Party electoral list were "wellknown" blacks.

"The people are shunning the National Party like lepers. which they are... the NP is still a racist party... extinction is staring them in the face."

Meanwhile, with eight days left to register for South Africa's first all-race election, conservative Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi Friday dismissed a government concession aimed at securing his par-

Mr. Buthelezi told state television the government's offer at eleventh-hour talks Thursday of a separate regional ballot was not enough on its own to draw him into the election.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting with unusual speed, the Seconte confirmed William Per-

ry as defence secretary, turning

over command of the Pentagon

to a scholar, businessman and

expert on high-tech weapons.

more than a week after Presi-

dent Bill Clinton named Mr.

Perry, until now the No. 2 man

at the Pentagon, to replace Les Aspin, Shortly after the Senate

vote, Dr. Perry was sworn in at

need," said Democratic Sen.

Carl Levin, a member of the

Senate Armed Services Com-

mittee. "He is totally commit-

ted to the security of this coun-

Warner, a Virginia Republi-can, predicted Dr. Perry would

rank "among the finest" of the

19 people to bold the job since

its creation after World War II.

glow of cold war victory fades

and the specter of nuclear

weapons proliferation and sim-

meriog regional conflict

emerges. And he will move

into the spacious office over-

looking the Potomac as the

Pentagon is adjusting to new

rules on womeo in combat and

Republican members of the

armed services panel almost

placed a hold on Dr. Perry's

nomination because of their

concerns about the administra-

tion policy on bomosexuals in

the military. After a hasty series of telephone calls be-

tween Dr. Perry and commit-

tee members, the Republicans

decision that it's too important

a position to be beld up," said Republican Sen. Dan Coats.

Although he voted for the

nominee, Sen. Coats said on

the Senate floor be wondered

if the reserved, bookish Perry

would "defer to louder or

stronger voices" in the admi-

nistratioo and on Capitol Hill.

But other senators lined up

to speak in glowing terms of

Dr. Perry, for his service in the

We came to the unanimous

decided against it.

homosexuals in uniform.

Dr. Perry takes over as the

Committee colleague John

"He does have the vision we

the Pentagon.

The 97-0 vote came slightly

He said the climbdown from the earlier insistence on a sing-le vote for both national and

**U.S.** Senate confirms

Perry for defence post

regional authorities showed that more concessions were possible.

The government, the African National Congress led by Nelson Mandela and the rightwing Freedom Alliance, which includes Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, failed at Thursday's talks to find a formula for black and white conservatives to take part in the election on April 26-28.

The alliance links black and white conservatives who have vowed to boycott the election unless they are given guarantees of virtual autonomy in nine separate regions.

Alliance leader Rowan Cronie said in an interview Friday that the government put forward a compromise package including an offer of separate national and regional ballots.

A source at the talks said the package included increased taxation powers for regional governments in a postapartheid South Africa, but not the constitutional autonomy that Mr. Buthelezi and other right-wingers have de-

Chief government nego-tiator Roelf Meyer declined to reveal details of the concessions offered, but said: "They are of such a reasonable nature that there should be no reason to be negative... it's an exploratory proposal to see whether we can move forward on that basis.

Mr. Cronje said ANC negotiator Thabo Mbeki indicated he also had a compromise to offer, but said the ANC in-

goo as the "godfather of STEALTH" technology and as

is not charismatic, that we

need a charismatic secretary of

defence. I disagree," Sen.

Levin said. "We need some-

body who has the experience

to change the culture there."

hoping Dr. Perry can make

good on his promise to insti-

tute management and procure-

ment reforms that could save

billions of dollars for use on

weapons or military readinces.

budget a lot better," Sen.

Levin said. "We can do that

Armed Services Chairman

Sam Nunn, a Georgia Demo-

crat, said of Dr. Perry's testi-

mony in his confirmation bear-

ing Wednesday, "it was im-

pressive and it was straightfor-

Sen. Nunn and other com-

mittee members urged an

accelerated process because

they bave already considered

and approved Dr. Perry for

other posts and to avoid what

is seen as a leadership vacuum

in the nearly two months since

Mr. Aspin announced his de-

Dr. Perry three times before

for lesser positions in the Pen-

tagoo, twice during the Carter

administration and last year for

the deputy defence secretary

conference in Munich on de-

fence issues. And next week be

returns to Capitol Hill to pre-

sent the administration's \$264

billion defence spending plan.

University engineering profes-

sor helped forge defence policy

for the past year under Mr.

Aspin and directed defence re-

search under President Carter.

He made his reputatioo io de-

fence circles as the leading

promoter of radar-evading

STEALTH technology. He

also became a millionaire as

the founder of and consultant

The 66-year-old Stanford

Dr. Perry lcaves Friday for a

The Senate has confirmed

parture.

with Dr. Perry."

"We must manage onr

In particular, lawmakers are

"Some people have said he

a management innovator.

sisted on preconditions before making its offer known.

"We will report to our leaders individually on the meeting and there will probably be a summit of Freedom Alliance leaders within the next few days," he said.

Mr. Cronje said the alliance had agreed to meet the government and the ANC again Monday evening and a summit of right-wing leaders might be held earlier Monday.

He said the alliance might consider registering provisionally for the election before the deadline next Saturday to win an additional 20 days for negotiation before the closing date for nominations.

"My understanding is that we can register and then, if we do not submit a list of candidates, that registration will lapse," be said.

On Thursday, Mr. Buthelezi told a meeting of businessmen he would continue to insist on constitutional concessions as the price for his participation in the election.

"Even if the government and the ANC... do relent on this issue of the double ballot, the double ballot by itself is quite meaningless if regions do not have the autonomy which cannot be interferred with by the Constituent Assembly,

The April election, in which about 22 million blacks will vote for the first time, will be for a multi-party assembly that will run the country for five years and draw up a permanent non-racial constitution.

Berlusconi

out front

poll says

ROME (R) - Media magnate

Silvio Berlusconi emerged Fri-

day as Italy's most trusted politician in an opinion poli that also revealed deep confusion

among voters over which party

to back in the country's land-

The survey by the Doxa In-

stitute provided a timely boost

is threatening to go it alone in the March 27-28 elections un-

less potential ailies in the cen-

tre and on the right stop squab-

bling and join forces against

At the same time, however,

two thirds of the sample said

they did not know which party

to vote for in the general elec-

tions, to be held under a new

simple majority system that is

expected to redraw Italy's poli-

knows' has never been so high

as this time round," said Doxa

Director Ennio Salamon. He

cautioned that the uncertainty

would affect the reliability of

Though limited to 506 Ita-

lians. Doxa's telephone survey

for TG3 state television news

showed 25 per cent of respon-

dents saw Mr. Berlusconi as

the person most able to tackle

That put the tycoon, who

entered politics last week at

(Go Italy) conservative move-

ment, far ahead of the field.

lo Azeglio Ciampi. Italy's first

non-political head of govern-

ment, was next with 10 per

HELSINKI (R) - Finns wor-

Current Prime Minister Car-

the head of a "Forza Italia"

Italy's problems.

"The number of 'don't

tical map.

in Italy,

# from the troubled townships in the run-up to the A member of the South African Police's notorious upcoming elections (AFP photo) Internal Stability Unit watches as Zulus in Tokoza voice their disapproval at the unit's withdrawal

## 9 die in Sarajevo shelling attack Commenting on a three-pronged U.N. effort on the

dren and at least 15 people were wounded. Western journalists said survivors were giving first aid to

amongst the crowd.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the new U.N. commander in Bosnia. said Friday his new "get tough" approach would get more humanitarian aid con-

Gen. Rose blamed a "frag-

Gen. Rose has promised a

past if necessary, U.N. officials

Serb forces unblocked U.N. traffie on a road outside Sarajevo after Gen. Rose threatened to use Warrior combat vehicles to force a way

tories)"by our own forces,

whatever the price would be," he told reporters.

With three Council members - France, Britain and Spain

action before the EU bas taken a position. The Europeans intend to discuss the issue Monday, with Germany having already signalled its opposition to an economic embargo.

mented and there hasn't been a But European diplomats totally coherent approach." said they expected Germany to use its influence with Croatia Gen. Rose, a former commander of Britain's crack SAS and get the troops withdrawn. (Special Air Service) regiment, said "only half of the convoys

The threat of sanctions against Croatia, similar to tbose imposed against the Yngoslav Repoblics of Serbia and Montenegro, was prompted by reports that Croatia sent regular army troops to Bosnia to reinforce Croat militias battling Bosnian government forces.

Secretary-General Boutros sanctions against Croatia Ghali earlier this week identi-Thursday for sending troops to fied 3,000 to 5,000 regular Croatian army troops in central and southern Bospia, including three brigades and a military police force. He said the army's equipment included heavy artillery and multibarrelled rocket launchers.

> In a statement read at a formal meeting Thursday, the Security Council said it would consider "other serious measures" if Croatia "fails to put an immediate end to all forms of interference" in Bosnia. Council members said "serious measures" were a codeword for sanctions.

> Dr. Ghali is to report within two weeks on Croatia's prog-ress towards withdrawal "all elements" of the Croatian army and their equipment.

The Council will then con-- members of the European sider the controversy again.

peacekeeping, military and

humanitarian fronts, he said: "I think possibly some of our effort has been somewhat frag-

required are getting into cen-

endanger the troops under his

command, Gen. Rose said:

The risks will be diminished

by the fact that we are adopt-

ing a slightly tougher stance."
At the United Nations, the

Security Council threatened

Bosnia but it is questionable

whether the 15-member body

Nevertheless, Council mem-

bers as well as Croatia's U.N.

ambassador, Mario Nobilo,

said they considered the warn-

ing a serious one but hoped it

threat by saying bis country

mainly against rebel Serbs in

Croatia, if the sanctions were

"We would be running out of time and in the first place

would liberate (Croatian terri-

would "spark a new war,"

Mr. Nobilo returned the

would not be carried out.

will impose them.

Asked if his approach might

SARAJEVO (R) - Nine people died in Sarajevo's Muslim suburb of Dobrinja Friday when shells slammed into a crowd waiting for humanitarian aid, hospital sources said. Three of the dead were chil-

casualties of an earlier shelling when a second shell exploded

Attacks on Sarajevo by Serb forces besieging the Bosnian capital has been intense this week and U.N. peacekeepers said tension in the city was

voys through to Bosnia.

mented" approach by the United Nations in the past and said his new policy woold diminish the risk faced by the troops under his command.

"bardline, hard-nosed" approach to his mission to aid civilian victims of the war and told BBC Radio that "by focusing our efforts... I am quite sure we will increase the number of convoys going through to central Bosnia.

# N. Korea seems to close door on inspections

VIENNA (R) - North Korea said Friday there was "no immediate prospect" of letting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conduct unconditional inspections of its nuclear sites.

The North Korean envoy to the IAEA, Yun Ho-Jin, told Reoters in Vienna that the conflicting positions of the IAEA and Pyongyang "cannot be merged at the moment."

Without inspections, the U.N. agency will be unable to give North Korea a clean bill of nuclear health by the end of this month, and the United States, which believes Pyongyang is making atomic bombs, could demand punitive sanctions.

The harldine and heavilyarmed Communist state. issuing a stream of hostile statements this week, has warned it would regard this an

lear weapons ambitions.

North Korea disclaims nuc-

first round on Jan. 16, but failed to win the 50 per ceot

needed to avoid a second and

The wiocer will succeed

Mauno Koivisto who steps

down on March I after two

Mr. Ahtisaari, 56, is a for-mer United Nations under-

secretary general with little ex-

perience of domestic politics

while Ms. Rehn, 58, is an

outspoken candidate of the

small Swedish People's Party,

a junior member of the centre-

from the six-per cent Swedish-

speaking minority in Finland

- a legacy of the time before

1809 when Finland belonged to

its western neighbour.

Her party draws support

decisive round of voting.

six-year terms.

from Russia in 1917.

right government.

to seven declared nuclear sites. On Jan. 20, the IAEA said North Korea was seeking to place unacceptable limits on the proposed examination of the facilities, and warned there would be no inspections at all unless these conditions were dropped.

With less than three weeks to go before the IAEA must issue a report to its board of governors, meeting in the week of Feb. 21. the agency's talks with North Korea appeared at a dead end.

We will not accept to clarify everything," Mr. Yun said. We have offered enough to prove the continuity of knowledge (about North Korea's nuclear activities)."

Some U.S. senators are displaying impatience with the Clinton administration's attempts to cajole the North. complaining these rely on "too much carrot and not enough

When Washington said a week ago that it was sending Patriot anti-missile defence systems to its ally South Korea. Pyongyang unleashed a tirade

of angry statements. IAEA spokesman David Kyd said North Korea's nuclear sites had not been opened to outside inspection for over a year, apart from two brief visits last summer to change film and batteries in IAEA

But Mr. Yun indicated that the inspection measures the agency was demanding to carry out were regarded by his govemment as excessive.

Last Friday. Mr. Kyd said the IAEA hoped to hear from the North Koreans early in the week. But the agency is still waiting for a formal answer. "We've had no notification," Mr. Kyd said Thursday.

"It looks pretty dismal." Pyongyang has warned it will tear up all its "goodwill commitments" over nuclear inspections and finally renounce the non-proliferation treaty (NPT), which the IAEA is pledged to safeguard through regular inspections.

It has accused the U.S. of "despicable and dangerous acnons of perfidy.

#### J.C. Tabio. S. Korea reaffirms ban on Japanese shows, films

SEOUL (AFP) - The South Korea government Wednesday ruled it would maintain a decades-old ban on Japanese shows and films, putting an end to an acrimomous debate coloured by bitter memories of occupation. Foreign Ministry officials said. The decision came at a meeting of South Korean Foreign Minister Han Snng-Joo and governing party. aders, Mr. Han's office said. e meeting reaffirmed that with Korea needed to block influx of Japanese culture, which has been barred here as unsavory and alien since the 1910-1945 colonial occupation, it said. "Considering the special national sentiment toward Japan, it is not desirable either. Yonbap. South Korea's national news agency. quoted Pack Nam-Chi, the party's policy coordinator, as aying. The meeting followed a sharp debate triggered by South Korean ambassador to Japan Gong Ro-Myung, who proposed Monday that the ban be lifted "in the current age of advanced telecommunications and mass media, which is rendering borders iosignificant. It is desirable for Korea to open its markets oow for good Japanese cultural pro-ducts including movies," he said. Mr. Gong's remarks were seized upon by the local media as South Korean President Kim Young-Sam geared for a trip to Japan in March, with opinions split both among government officials and cultural and artistic circles. Foreign Ministry officials, echoing Mr. Gong's proposal, said the time was ripe for a "soft landing" of Japanese popular culture to help facilitate economic exchanges between the two geographically close countries. "We need an open-minded approach," said a director at

the ministry's East Asia De-

partment, speaking on condi-

tion of anonymity hours before

the decision was made.

## Carter administration's Penta-1st all-Japan rocket puts space shuttle in orbit

Watched by thousands, the H-2 rocket blasted off from the Tanegasbima Space Centre in southern Japan at 7:20 a.m. (2220 GMT Thursday) and sent the shuttle into orbit, the National Space Development Agency (NASDA) said. "Today's H-2 rocket launHosokawa congratulated project staff and said in a stateto help "our country's econo-

The H-2, plagued by technical problems which put back the programme some two years, was launched after two delays this week because of bad weather and a faulty air

ried about economy and foreign policy issues will choose between a woman defence minister and a veteran U.N. diplomat in a presidential election Sunday set to become a political thriller. Opinion polls show the race

for the powerful presidency becoming increasingly close, with Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn and Martti Ahtisaari of the opposition Social Democrats running neck and "It is impossible to antici-

pate what will happen," said political science Professor Olavi Borg at Tampere University.

Tuomo Martikainen, professor at Helsinki University, said the election could be so close that "luck plays a crucial role" and that the outcome may well be decided by voter turnout.

The matter is in the bands of marginal voters," be said. The two led nine other candidates in the election's

The United States has offered to end North Korea's economic and political isolation in return for IAEA access

Finns face tough choice in presidential election Ms. Rehn and Mr. Ahtisaari have similar views on foreign policy, the maio task of the president, with both of them favouring plans to join the European Union and stressing the importance of good rela-

tions with neighbouring Rus-

Ms. Rehn and Mr. Ahtisaari have benefited from voter dis-Many Finns look nervously at events in Russia, especially following the rise of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsenchantement with politicians at a time when the country is suffering its worst economic slump since independence

"I think there will not be any big changes in our foreign policy," said Weijo Pitkanen, a senior researcher at the Finnish Institute of International

But the two candidates clash on economics. Mr. Ahtisaari advocates fiscal stimulation while Ms. Rehn is part of a government which has cut expenditure to keep state debt under control.

Sunday's vote marks the first time Finns will elect their president in a direct popular vote

as opposed to an Electoral College system. Mr. Ahtisaari was ahead

with 25.9 per cent of the vote in the first round, roughly the same level of popularity as he party, but it was Ms. Rehn with 22 per cent who emerged as favourite after a late surge in support, especially among women and the young. The last two opinion polls Mr. Ahtisaari has caught up.

One published Thursday gave bim a narrow lead with 51 per cent in support against 49 per cent for Ms. Rehn, while a survey Wednesday put Ms. Rehn ahead with 50.5 per cent against 49.5 per cent - both within their margins of error.

Political analysts say Mr. Ahtisaari bas apparently gained in popularity by criticising the government over record unemployment, saying he wants a more "bumane" policy, and as a result of improved performances in television de-



world nations with rocket tech-

cess," a spokesman said.
Prime Minister Morihiro ment that be expected Japanese space development mic society and the international community,"

the Vienna be s Greed and it rch. Two-thirds:
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honour, the Ga
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include Jim Sa
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which chart the human relation sed on an Ak play. Only are in the me delphia, about fights back athecause he k Peter Weil's Fee aircrafts disage A joint Russe duction Semin 's The Year ( ads three Easter allengers. Shore treats homels Dostoyevsky Pestival Duece, ladeln. Hundre documentary a films are bee f competition r dren's films for d South Africa ov of The Gra Stroheim's fir will be among! ; their world pe festival opens Ms. Loren is the **Egyptian Special Olympic team** Honourary Li Golden Bear a :k Valenti, propreparing for '95 world games U.S. Motion Fr

to lower Europes to Hollywood iropean culm to gather at the eb. 19 to disas 's trans-Atlant ther Golden Ba sclude: The Ble many's Lienter ack to Square On ny's Reinbar parkling Fox g Kong prode Zi-Niu, Hwan rang Sun Woodi and Shelter 0 / Buddhadeb Da : River by New Santos of Brat pan-Mexican pa a Y Chocolateh errez Alca as

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e triggeted ! n ambassador # Ro-Myung. he current age ecommunication 1edia which orders insignif narkets now of se cultural pro ng movies. y the local media orean President am geared for in March. both among printing circles. Forcis ials, echoing Mr sai. said the time "soft landing" Jular culture economic er en the two gent e countries. pen-mindel ud a director

East Asia Dr

aking on cond arty hours before vas made.

# Volkov gets to semis, Lendl ousted in Dubai

Festival with DUBAI, United Arab Emireen legend son rates (AP) — Alexander Volhelare Edward of Russia was given a kny of Russia was given a kny of Russia was given a tremendous fright by Sweden's Henrik Holm before the eighth-seeded Russian entered the semifinals of the \$1 million Dubai Open tennis championship.

in a second quarterfinal, fifth seed Ivan Lendl went into the fray against no. 4 seed Magnus Gustafsson with a painful back injury. He retired in the third set leaving Custafsson, the world no. 12, to enter the semifinals with a score of 4-6, 6-2, 3-1.

The centre-court thriller saw Volkov, the world no. 20. claim six of the last seven games to win 6-4, 0-6, 7-5 after seeming to be on the way out of the tournament, which has a winner's prize fund of \$144,000.

Holm, ranked 27 places below Volkov and the man who upset second seed Thomas Muster in the second round had given little away throughout the two-hour 19-minute contest, but made crucial douhle faults at \$-5 in the final set.

Just one break of serve separated the pair in the opening set, with Volkov saving two hreak points before and another one after breaking Holm to lead 4-3. In the second set, the Russian became upset with some line calls and grew increasingly agitated, eventually receiving a warning for abusive language.

# Reneberg beats Ruah

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) -According to the seedings, he's the next best thing to Michael Chang at the San Jose Open. Ask Richey Reneberg if that makes him a target and he just about laughs.

"I can't imagine there's a guy out there who feels he can't beat me," Reneberg said after disposing of Venezuela's Maurice Rush 6-2, 6-1 Thursday to reach the quarterficals..

While three seeded players have already lost early-round Marches, including no. 3 seed Brad Gilbert, a San Francisco bay area resident, Reneberg has lived up to his hilling so

Renegerg of Houston is ranked 30th in the world by the

WASHINGTON (USIA) -

Special Olympic International

(SOI) is gearing up for its 1995

world games in New Haven, Connecticut, and the organisa-

tion plans to help train Egyp-

tian coaches and trainers -

and those of other countries -

as they prepare for this

These plans were discussed

during a WorldNet satellite

television dialogue between

and SOI Director of Sports:

SOI Director Will Hochnoorf

Training and Competition

Tom Songster, in the United

States, and a gathering of

Egyptian representatives in

Cairo, locluding Ahmad

Hamad, national director of

SOI in Egypt, and officials

tepresenting the ministries of

special affairs education, the

Supreme Court, and Egypt's

Federation of Handicapped

now ready to provide massive

technical assistance to virtually

any country that requires it," Hochndorf said. "The SOI is

prepared to send coaches in

the sports in which Egypt plans

to participate, experts in orga-

nisational management and ex-

perts in the area of family

Involvement in Special Olym-

pics in order to help develop

Egypt's programme, he added. Special Olympics offers

sports training and competition

worldwide in 23 kinds of sports

to children and adults with

Since the programme was founded io 1968 by Mrs.

Eonice Shriver, sister of for-

mer President John F. Ken-

mental retardation.

"Our. headquarters here is

quadrennial event.

ATP and seeded second in San Jose. He has lost only seven cames in two matches, making quick work of unseeded challengers, maybe because be's not taking them for granted.

"I don't think there's anyone intimidated by me so it doesn't matter," Renegerg said. "I don't think being seeded really helps me at all."

Next on Reneberg's agenda is hometown favourite Brian MacPhie, a wild-card entry, who advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over no. 8 Luiz Mattar

Germany advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Alex O'Brien.

No. 5 Karsten Braasch of

# Ellis paces Spurs over Cavaliers

Ellis scored 31 points, including a three-point play with 4.2 seconds remaining, to lift the streaking San Antonio Spurs to a 98-97 triumph over the Cleeveland Cavaliers late

Ellis, who netted 13 points in the decisive fourth quarter, scored San Antonio's final seven points. David Robinson added 19 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 20 rebounds for San Antonio which won its fifth straight

Mark Price, whose jumper with two minutes left gave the Cavs a 94-91 advantage, scored

a season-high 29 points.

Larry Nance chipped in with
19 for Cleveland, which played most of the game without Brad Daugherty, who is suffering from the flu.

In Portland, Harvey Grant scored 11 of his season-high 29 points in the third quarter as the Portland Trail Blazers raced past the Phoenix Suns, 126-105.

Grant led seven players in double figures as the Trail Blazers snapped a two-game skid and beat the Suns for the first time in three games this

Grant helped extend a ninepoint halftime lead to 98-78 entering the foorth quarter. Portland led by as many as 26 points in the final period.

At Utah, B.J. Armstrong scored 20 points and keyed a fourth quarter spurt that helped the Chicago Bulls pull away for their 10th win in 11 games, 94-85, over the Utah

'transforming dependency

Asked how mental retarda-

tion is defined in determining

who can participate in the

games, Songster and Hoehn-

dorf agreed that rather than

use an "intelligence quotient"

(IQ) limit, the SO1 prefers to

ask whether a person has diffi-

culty keeping up educationally

"Mrs. Shriver's basic phi-

losophy has always been that

it's better to include one per-

son that's questionable about

clude anyone at all," Hoebn-

Hoehndorf noted that the

organisation specifically ex-

cludes any sport which may be

considered violent, such as

boxing, wrestling, or the mar-

tial arts. Otherwise, SO1

attempts to include representa-

tive sporting events from around the world.

how each country can manage its organisation of the games,

Hoehndorf and Songster stres-

sed that SOI has found it quite

possible to work well - and

jointly — with both

government-run, as well as pri-

vate sports organisations.

Turning to the question of

with peers.

dorf said.

into independence, disability

to success," he added.

Armstrong hit a three-



Robert Parish of the Boston Celtics (right) drives against Shawn Kemp of the Seattle Supersonics Wednesday. Seattle beat Boston 97-84 (AFP)

pointer to give the Bulls a four-point lead with 6:24 to go and scored four points during a game-closing 8-2 run that clinched Chicago's fourth straight win over Utah.

Scottie Pippen added 19 points and Horace Grant had 11 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Chicago. Karl Malone led the Jazz with 24 points and 10 rebounds and Tom Chambers added 16

John Stockton had 12 assists

for Utah

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 28 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets past the Los Angeles Lakers, 99-88.

Otis Thorpe added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Houston, which improved to 10-10 since starting the season 22-1.

Elden Campbell had a season-high 29 points and 13 rebounds to pace the Lakers, who had won three of their last five games.

## charges in Kerrigan attack PORTLAND (AP) - Investi-

Under Oregon law, a person

has committed a felony. Norm Frink, Multnomah

eligibility rather than to excorrect. "I am not excluding the pos-

sibility that the grand jury might choose to return hindering prosecution charges against someone in this case," Frink said "But at this point, it's mere speculation and no final decision has been made." Four people, including

Harding's ex-hushand, Jeff plotting the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. figure skating championships, the qualifying event for this mooth's Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, thus enhancing Harding's chance of

# Prosecutors considering more

gators refused Thursday to rule out filing charges of biodering prosecution against Tonya Harding in the attack on Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerri-

Harding, who has not been charged, admitted to authorities that she lied in the first part of her 101/2-hour interview at FBI headquarters Jan. S.

hinders prosecution by deceiving authorities to prevent the apprehension of someone who

Couoty deputy district attor-ney, said a New York daily news report that Harding will be charged with hindering pro-

Gillooly, have confessed to Kerrigan to knock her out of

winning. Earlier this week, Gillooly pleaded guilty to taking part in the attack and implicated his Kerrigan, whose right knee was clubbed, withdrew from

the championships but was named to the U.S. Olympic team any way along with Harding, who won the competition. The U.S. Figure Skating Association was proceeding

with steps that could lead to revoking's membership for unethical conduct. But that process could drag on far past the games, and the U.S. Olympic Committee was

not commenting on what ac-

tioo it might take in the mean-Harding practised again at a suburban shopping mall rink Thursday and said was ignoring suggestions that she re-

move herself from the Olympic During the first part of her interview with the FBf, Harding told investigators she knew nothing about any involvement of her ex-husband in the plot.

She changed her story and implicated him only after one of her interrogators warned her it was illegal to lie to law enforcement authorities

guard. Excellent.

# Graf, Navratilova waltz into Tokyo semifinals

TOKYO (R) — Top seeds Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova coasted through straight set wins Friday to advance into the semifinals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

Fresh from her Australian Open triumph, Graf overwhelmed Canadian qualifier Jana Nejeoly 6-1 6-1 and will next play unseeded Kristic Boogert of the Netherlands. who downed American veteran Pam Shriver 6-1 6-4.

Navratilova kept alive her bid to defend her title and win the first tournament of her final season by outmanoeuvring Larisa Neiland of Latvia Waiting for her in Saturday's

semifnal is sixth seed Manueta Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland, who battled to a 6-4 6-4 win against plucky Marketa Kochta of Germany, the victor of third seed Gabriela Sabatini in the second round. Graf was merciless in her

42-minute drubbing of the Czech-born Canadian, ranked 306 places lower. "For me it was very easy

because I served well and was able to attack her serve." Graf

Navratilova, seeded second and playing her first tourna-

one point on my serve in the second set and wer able to return but serve her mine," said Navrtilova. her and seek of her care. danger of tosing her own serve as she executed her powerful serve and velley game to perfection.

Martina Navratilova ment since tumbling out in the second round of the new York Virginia Slims in mid-November, unleashed an array

7.5

of nimble shots in tandem with her powerful serve spiked with topspin.
"I served very well. I lost

defian: wa ning to the Bulgarian-born Maleeva-Fragniere, gunning for her third tute here before retiring from tennis at the end of next, week's Asia Open in Osaka. "I'm sure she'd like to go out

The second used sounded a

Navigillov.

tter than

rice winner

the 167th win

was never in

on a winning note, but if she beats me she'll have to earn it.; I'll do everything in my power to make this her tast match, period. But at the end of the march. I'lt give her a big hug." she said, breaking out into a oroad smile.

Maleeva-Fragniere had to overcome a spirited challenge from the tenacious hard-hitting Kochta in a thritling, closelycontested quarterfinal.

"I don't think I can play much better than this - 1 m playing some of my best tennis ight now." said Maleeva-

# World Cup ski returns to Garmisch after tragedy

G A R M 1 S C H - PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (R) - World Cup ski racers Sunday return to the venue where former world champion Ulrike Maier lost her life.

The men, however, contest only a slalom following a decision to call off their downhill for safety reasons in the wake of last Saturday's tragedy in the women's downhill on the Kandahar track.

The slalom is raced on a separate course called the Gudiberg on a different slope. Race organisers decided Wednesday there was not enough snow on important sections of the Kandahar to stage men's downhill training that day because temperatures had

Having already decided not to hold practice Thursday the day of Maier's funeral -out of respect for the late Austrian, the organisers were tice day before Saturday's scheduled downhill -- insufficient, they said, to ensure the race could go ahead smoothly.

Maier was buried in her native village of Rauris, 90 kilometres from Salzhurg, after a funeral service attended by her family, friends, top Austrian ski racers and hundreds of local inhabitants.

Hubert Schweighoffer, Maier's finance and father of her four-year-old daughter Melanie, blames the Interna-

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tional Ski Federation (FIS) and its officials for her death, alleging safety standards were insufficient.

FIS and the race organisers deny the charge, saying they did everything possible to ensure safety in a sport in which risks cannot be ruled out. One local mountain-rescuer

here was not alone in privately

expressing disquiet over the cancellation of the men's downhill in the wake of the doomed women's race. "The risks are there. They all knew it. She(Maier) knew

it. The course is no more dangerous than others. It will be the same at the Olympics." For this month's Lilleham-

mer Olympics women racers campaigned successfully to get their downhill moved to the men's course on the grounds that the track originally designated for them was not tough enough.

Maier's death has inevitably Lillehamemr.

This week's World Cup programme reflected this, with the Austrians pulling out of women's downhill in Spain and the men's downhill in Garmisch deleted.

But racing returns to Gar-misch with the men's slalom and Italy's Alberto Tomha back to top form after posting his third victory of the season in the discipline in Chamonix, France, last Sunday.

Tomba's confidence is high as he chases an uprecedented. third successive Olympic giant' sislom gold and aims to recapture the sialom title he narrowloss at the 1992 Albertville

Sweden's Tomas Fogdoe, second in Chamonix, Slovenian Jure Nosir and Austrians Thomas Stangassinger and Thomas Sykora will be out to: prevent the Italian from having things all his own way.

But, whoever the winnerturns out to he, the spectre of Ulrike Maier's death will loom over the race.

"We'll have sport in the coming weeks - but just sport, and not sport and fun." Hubert Ostler, chairman of the organising committee here, said this week.



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# **GOREN BRIDGE**

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you **♦EQ 774 0AK543 ♣A432** Partner opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?

Q.2-Both vulnerable, as South you hold: **2A105 V10983 34 4Q853** Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

•K94 VA53 VAS3 •J885
What is your opening bid?

Q.4-Both vulnerable, as South

from over 100 countries participated in the last world games, held in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1991. Songster indicated that SOI is anticipating sending experts on all of the sports in which Egypt plans to compete at the. 1995 games: Aquatics, athletics, basketball, table tennis,

nedy, more than one million

mentally handicapped athletes

from 131 countries have par-

ticipated in the Special Olym-

pics. More than 6,000 athletes

and football The coaching strategy of SOI, Songster said, is designed out of each athlete. The training schools for coaches are constantly getting new ideas from "all over the world," which they incorporate into their programmes at the local, national and international

Hoehndorf explained that when the games were formally established. Mrs. Shriver intended them to promote a better life for the retarded. He said she had found, through testing during the late 1950s and early 1960s, positive proof that "with appropriate training and coaching, persons with mental retardation could, in fact, achieve a significant amount of success" in their

lives as well as in sports. She had discovered that it was through such competition that the players could be challenged to "reach their highest potential," developing intellectual, physical, emotional, and

AKQ103 ♥A742 ♦K5 aQ8
Your right-hand opponent opens
the hidding with a weak two dismonds. What sction do you take?

Q.5.—Both vulnerable, as South

4QJ87 ♥94 ♦QJ962 486

\_East-West vulnerable, as

South you hold:

•EJ654 VQ2 0108 •8765

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 V Pass ?

The bidding has proceed.
North East South
1 1 7

What action do you take?

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(Arabic)

# **U.S.** lifts sanctions on Vietnam, opens new page in ties

HANOI (. - Vietnam and the United . - is set their relationship, sou i by war and a long, hitter aftermath, on a new course on Friday after U.S. President Bill Clinton lifted U.S. comomic sanctions in force for 10 years.

Vietnam wilcomed the gesture — made less than a week before the tet lunar new year - and said it expected liaison offices to open soon as a stepring stone towards full diplomatic relations.

Le Mai, Hanoi's point man on relations with Washington, said he expected the offices 10 open soon and he foresaw no problems in arranging the de-

Mr. Mai, deputy foreign minister, also said he did not believe the issue of financial claims dating hack to the end of the Vietnam war in 1975, to be discussed later this month, would be "too complicated."

Both sides agreed that normalising relations "cannot be attached with any political preconditions," he told a news conference giving Vietnam's reaction 10 hours after Mr. Clinton's Washington announcement.

"The bottom line is it's up to the goodwill of both sides," he said, declining to predict when diplomatic relations would be established.

In a formal statement, Vietnam welcomed Mr. Clinton's action as "a positive and significant decision, which contrihutes to opening a new page in U.S.-Vietnam relations in the interests of the two peoples."

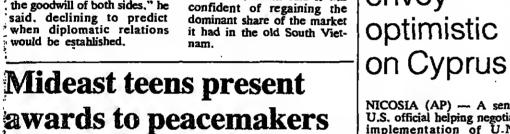
News of Mr. Clinton's statement hit Hanoi hefore dawn on Friday. There was no juhilation in the misty streets of the capital, hut the unanimous verdict of Vietnamese citizens and U.S. husinessmen here was 'great news.'

Vietnam's communist leaders were informed immediately of Mr. Clinton's move. Their reaction, Mr. Mai said, was contained in the formal state-

American companies — the main beneficiaries of the end of the emhargo - immediately started doing husiness (see

page 6).
Only 10 hours after Mr.
Clinton spoke, American Express signed an agreement with a Vietnamese hank to pave the way for use of its credit cards in Vietnam for the first time.

The U.S. soft drink firm Pepsico launched a "cola war" in Ho Chi Minh city, formerly Saigon, with its bitter rival Coca-Cola, which said it was



NEW YORK (AP) - It's been a heady few months for Laith, a 14-year-old Palestinian from Jerusalem.

In September, he was on the White House lawn to witness the signing of the historic peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

And on Thursday evening, he was in the United States again this time to present an award to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for his role in the peace negotiations. "I was sweating a lot," he

said after his speech to Peres. in which he implored the Israeli leader to speed up the process of making peace.

Laith was one of four youngsters from Israel, Egypt and the Israeli-occupied territories who were brought to New York to present the first Seeds of Peace awards at a formal dinner at the Regency

Seeds of Peace is a private group formed last April to promote understanding hetween young people from the Middle East. In August, it brought 46 Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian youths together at a summer camp in Maine, then brought them to Washington, where their trip culmin-.ated in a surprise: an invitation from President Clinton to attend the historic Signing.

The awards Thursday went to Mr. Peres, to PLO official Mahmoud Ahhas and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa. Accepting for Ahhas was the PLO's representative at the United Nations, Nasser El Kidwah. Egypt's U.N. ambassador, Nahil Al Araby, accepted for Mr. Musa.

Dressed in a hright blue Seeds of Peace T-Shirt and standing pert to Mr. Peace

standing next to Mr. Peres, Laith told the audience that the peace accord, the implementation of which has been delayed by disagreements, was one of the wisest steps ever taken in the Middle East, Then, staring straight at the Israeli leader, he said he hoped for a Palestinian state, with Arah East Jerusalem "at least" - as its capital.

The two smiled at each other, and the room erupted in laughter. Israel has long maintained that Jerusalem must remain the capital of the Jewish

In his remarks, Mr. Peres told Laith he was "grateful for what you said - whether I agree with every word or not,"

Yehoyada, a 14-year-old Israeli from West Jerusalem, presented the award to the PLO official, telling him he hoped that one day soon he and his friends will be able to say "see you in Damascus or



PERSONAL FRIENDS: Their Majesties King Bussein and Queen Noor and Austria's past and present presidents pose for a pre-dinner group photo at the presidential villa late Thursday. The Monarch had earlier flown in from Croatia where be inspected Jordanian troops serving with the U.N. From left to

right: Katharina Klestil, daughter-in-law of Austrian President mas Klestil, Mr. Klestil, King Hussein and Queen Noor and former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim with his wife

# U.S. envoy TEHRAN (Agencies) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani,

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior U.S. official helping negotiate implementation of U.N.hacked measures aimed at reuniding war-divided Cyprus said Friday the potential for the process to "get screwed up" was high.

But Robert Lamb, the U.S. State Department's special coordinator for Cyprus, said rival Greek and Turkish Cypriots on the island were faced with a "unique opportunity" following their leaders' acceptance of the U.N. confidencehuilding steps.

"The potential for this getting screwed up is high," he said. "But the truth of the matter is that it's an opportunity and a good opportunity."
'Nohody sees the

confidence-building measures as an end in themselves," he told a news conference attended by journalists from both communities and foreign correspondents.

But the measures are "an opportunity to lay the foundation stones and establish the kind of climate in which we can move forward in a positive way," said Mr. Lamh, a former U.S. ambassador to Cyprus.

On Tnesday, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali praised as a breakthrough the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders' recent acceptance of the U.N. package and their willingness to hegin talks on the confidence-huilding measures.

# Rafsanjani suggests West behind shooting

who authorities say was the target of an assassination attempt this week, suggested Friday that the United States and the West were behind the shooting.
Speaking in a prayer sermon at Tehran University, Mr. Raf-

sanjani, 60, said that "global arrogance" an Iranian epithet for the United States and the West — has been trying to crush the Islamic revolution since it ousted the pro-Western Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

As worshipers chanted "Hashemi, Hashemi, God save you," Mr. Rafsanjani shrugged off the alleged assassinaoon "In my opinion, this ... is a

very minor event, which can always happen," he said. Mr. Rafsanjani declared that even if he had been killed, the

Islamic revolution would not "Global arrogance, America and others should really know that by the physical or psycho-

logical elimination of a person they cannot overcome the revolution," he said. Iran ritually hlames the United States, which is trying to isolate the Islamic republic and

force it to abandon its radical policies, for most of its woes. "Death to America, death to Israel," roared the crowd when Mr. Rafsanjani referred to the

shooting (see page 2).

Security at the university campus in the heart of Tehran was unusually tight. Worshipers stood in line for hours to

The world's richest man, Brunei's Sultan Hassan Bolkiah, who is on an official visit to Iran, sat in a cordoned section among worshipers segregated by sex.

One man in the crowd, who identified himself only as Kaveh, said he had come from northern Tehran for the prayers. "We believe in the revolution and we'll continue supporting Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Khomeini," he said, 'America will never win."

"(The plotters) wanted to make a small but noisy move in front of foreign journalists and guests ... it would have been more successful for them if somebody had died," Mr. Rafsanjani said during his sermon.

A man fired five shots.

apparently from a small-calibre pistol, during a ceremony at the shrine of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini while Mr. Rafsanjani was giving a speech on tuesday.

The ceremony commemorated Ayatollah Khomeini's return to Tehran 15 years ago at the start of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

The man was seized, and Mr. Rafsanjani cononued his speech after a short break. Iranian officials were reported as saying later that accomplices, described as "anti-Islamic and antirevolutionary," had heen arrested.

"(They aimed) to disrupt the ceremonies and make them unsafe so that people would not participate and give a sign to the outside world that the revolution has lost its lustre." Mr. Rafsanjani said Friday.



"Some (people) could al-ways cause a small incident to occur," he added. "But be assured that it is nothing against the revolution which has become independent from individuals. Tehran Radio quoted a

police brigadier as saying on Thursday that security forces had information on who was behiod the plot but could not release it for security reasons.

The radio had earlier quoted an unnamed security official as saying foreign powers were involved in the plot and Iranian television on Wednesday night blamed the United States and Israel.

Witnesses said on Tuesday the shots were fired from a small-calibre pistol at least 50 metres from the platform where Mr. Rafsanjani stood.

Mr. Rafsaniani, who was elected to a second four-year term last August, nas been among the country's top leaders since the revolution. He has reportedly survived several

assassination attempts. Some Iranians doubt the official version of the shooting, claiming it was stage-managed to boost Mr. Rafsanjani's image at a time when his government is mired in crisis.

# Ali Mahdi says Somali agreement is near

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad said on Friday rival Somali leaders were close to agreement to form a government, and even a weak government was better than none.

It would be "a body without a head" hut "we have to opt for the easiest solution," he told Reuters. "Only the Somalis can decide the fate of Somalia. No one can impose it." Mr. Ali Mahdi, who consid-

ers himself interim president, was speaking after talks in was speaking after talks in which U.S. special envoy Robert Oakely is acting as go-between among factions including his main rival, General Mohammad Farah Aideed. Foreign intervention lanneted in December 1992 to protect famine relief from civil war looting is being scaled back

looting is being scaled back with the departure of American and other major Western peacekeeping contingents bloodied in conflict with Gen. Aideed's followers.

Somalia had had no central authority since the fall of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre three years ago. A resurgence of clan fighting is now widely feared.

Harking back to an unsuc-cessful peace accord negotiated last March in neighbour-ing Ethiopia, Mr. Ali Mahdi said the plan would have avoided giving dominant power to any one of the warring "I said at Addis Ahaba that

what we accepted was a body without a head — but no one understood me," he said in an interview in his north Mogadishu office. "Now after one year the

international community, Americans and Aideed understand, and are saying now it (a government) can come. "This is the main new

motivation for an interim government, "Even if the Somalis agree

to form a weak government, then we have to make it stronger and huild it up in time. You cannot just avoid the idea because it is a weak government," he said.
"We are very close to

reaching the conclusion of self government. We are very closeto the final stage.

"Amhassador Oakley told us in a message from his government that Somalis have to find a solution to our problem and that the International community is ready to act as a catalyst.

He said specifics of what kind of government and what kind of role Gen. Aideed might have in it were not raised but "we spoke of our willingness to form an interim government... as regard to his meeting with Aideed he just told me it was very positive."

Mr. Oakley said in Nairohi Wednesday he had met Gen. Aideed and he was convinced that he was now determined to seek peace.

Royal watchers: doubt Camilla's out of Charles' life

watchers doubt recent reports

LONDON (AP) — Some royal [18]

in Britain's tabloids that Prince Charles has put Camilla Parker British throne, thinks reports all live that their relationship is over are part of a public relations campaign by the prince's pur ported friends to refurbish his ported friends to refurbish his image. James Whitaker, the Daily Mirror's royal correspondent, quotes unnamed friends of Prince Charles as a manufactured friends from the prince of the saying the prince was outraged at reports that he has dumped Mrs. Parker Bowles. "These two are still in love," he quoted one purported friend as saying. Three Sunday newspapers reported that the prince cut all ties with the 46-year-old wife of an army brigadier to the remove any obstacles to his eventual ascension to the throne. Nigel Dempster, the mail on Sunday's gossip colunnist, said friends of the prince told him Prince Charles is no longer accepting phone calls from Mrs. Parker Bowles, a mother of two. But Mr. Whitaker and Richard Kay, the Daily Mail's royal correspondent, reported Monday that Camilla spoke to the prince in Sydney last week. The Prince of Wales, who is touring Anstralia, has remained silent on the issue. So has his staff. Rumours of a royal affair, which had simmered for years, hit the headlines in 1999 TIV COURT. hit the headlines in 1992 when of money newspapers published transcripts of an intercepted phone conversation allegedly between the prince and the hrigadier's wife expressing their mutual love. The Church Of England's Archdeacon of York, George Austin, has sug- 3 said Mr gested that the allegations of infidelity made Prince Charles unfit to be king, when he would also become the church's head. Prince Charles and Camilla dated when they were both single and remained friends after Prince Charles married Princess Diana in 1981. The prince and princess separated in December 1992 and share custody of their sons, William, 11, and Harry, The Daily Express reported Tuesday that senior royal aides ejected claims by a relative of Ars. Parker Bowles that Prince Charles was considering

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#### Prince Charles' attacker on ball in hospital

SYDNEY (R) - The man who attacked Britain's Prince

plan" for reconciliation.

a reconciliation with Princess

Diana. Society writer Una-

Mary. Parker, a cousin by, marriage of Mrs. Parker,

Bowles, was quoted as saying:

Princess Diana had agreed to

step out of the limelight and

Prince Charles was giving up

Camilla as part of "a master

Charles with a hlank pistol thought he was on a suicide mission, an Australian judge heard Friday before granting bail and ordering him to undergo psychiatric treatment. University student David Kang. 23. lunged at Prince Charles 2 and fired a starter pistol twice during Australia Day celebrations in Sydney on Jan. 26. No-one was hurt. In a late hair hearing, New South Wales Supreme Court Judge Rex. Smart released Mr. Kang on Australian dollar 5,000 (\$3,580) bail provided he remain in a Sydney hospital under the care of his psychiatrist. Judge Smart reversed his decision to refuse bail after Mr. Kang's psychiatrist presented evidence after interviewing Mr. Kang in Sydney's maximum security Long Bay Prison. The court heard earlier riday that Mr. Kang had expected to be shot in the attack on Mr. Charles and left a note telling his family he expected a "rendezvous with God." Mr. Kang carried magazine articles about a suicide, which he referred to, to overcome his fear of death, police said. Other artides at Mr. Kang's home included one on a bomb. Mr. Kang said he had not copsciously pointed the pistol at Prince Charles. "I was running at the time," he said, "I just, pulled the trigger twice. I dropped it on the grass, not the stage as the police said. He said he decided to launch himself at Prince Charles after he saw "nobody was there". The attack sparked international criticism of Australian security for Prince Charles's visit.

# IAF under fire for non-committal stand on Malhas' charges

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Acdon Front (IAF) is heing targeted for criticism for remaining "uninvolved" in the food and drug casea which was raised by Minister of Health Abdnl Rahim Malhas two weeks ago. And while its representatives have responded to critics in the press and among IAF constituency, the front has yet to outline its position towards the affairs.

Some analysts believe that the IAF has been unable to make up its mind over support of Dr. Malhas if only because a large percentage of its constituency is pharmacists and food traders whose interests have been targeted by Dr. Malhas' criticism.

On the other hand, the IAF does not want to appear to be siding with the gavernment especially since it was Dr. Abdul Salam Mc ali's government that was perceived to be targetting the Islamists by the change in the Election Law to a oneperson, one-vote system.

Other analysts believe that the IAF cannot be called upon to have a unified party line on this issue because the issue is "non-partisan" and is not political in nature.

These analysts believe that the IAF has within its ranks

the same split in opinion over the minister's statements as the one that has appeared in society at large.
The IAF's position may

hecome clearer when its spokesperson in parliament, Hamzeh Mansour, takes the floor today. Bot in the meanome, the front has attempted to ward off criticism by other depudes and political forces in the country. It has, nevertheless.

worded its response carefully to avoid committing itself to any particular posidon. In fact, on Wednesday, the

first day of parliamentary dis-cussion of the Malhas allegations, the IAF deputies who are usually at the fore of those signing up to speak against the government did not take the podium and left it instead to the deputies who lashed out at the minister.

Critics of the powerful Islamie party maintain that the movement failed to give adequate attention to Dr. Malhas' charges of corruption among husinessmen and importers and within the bureaucracy of the ministry

Two weeks ago, a weekly Arabie newspaper quoted Dr. Malhas as saying that a good quantity of food and medicine that reaches the market does not meet international standards and specifications.

He pointed the finger at what he described as "whales" in the husiness sector who, he maintained, have exercised pressure and intimidated food and drug control employees in his minis-

The minister's statements created panic in the Kingdom, especially since Dr. Malhas directly connected the increased percentage of cancer cases in the country with the quality of imported food and drugs.

The Lower House of Parliament immediately called for a session to discuss the charges of the minister and inidate investigadons into the minister's claims. The House gave the government three days to present a report substantiating the minister's

But in what appeared to be an isolated incident, the IAF's deputies in the Lower House were seen as the only organised bloc in the House which accepted the government's request to delay dis-

cussion of what has been titled by the local press as 'Maihas gate.'' Other "opposition" deputies had demanded that the government stick to the deadine of last Sonday but they failed to gain the support of the IAF deputies except Zarqa Deputy Bassam Emoush,

who seconded the govern-

ment's motion for delay saying that they also needed time to "collect informa-

Criticism of the IAF 's position grew when the president of the Pharmacists Association, Hussam Mismar. who was elected on an Islamist platform, published a letter dismissing Dr. Malhas's call for upgrading and enforcing legislation which would provide for tighter control over the quality of food and medicine in the Kingdom.

At the same time Mr. Mismar published his letter in local Arabic papers, Al Sabeel, an Islamist weekly believed to be the mouthpiece of the IAF, which also marginalised the importance of Dr. Malhas's statements much to the chagrin of its Islamist readers.

In this week's edition, Al Sabeel's editor in chief, Hilmi Al Asmar, sought to ward off criticism that the Islamists were in support of husiness interests at the expense of the health of the people.

In a long column he also sought to dispel charges that the Islamists' dismissal of the charges made by Dr. Malhas was because he was a wellknown critic of Islamist calls for stricter social laws, especially in regards to segregation of men and women. Before assuming his post as minister of health, Dr.

Malhas wrote a weekly column in Al Ra'i Arabic daily in which he often lashed out at fundamentalist social demands and called for progressive and liberal policies.

'We understand the criticism of our hrothers who love us and are loved by us, because we did not give the food and medicine case its due in our earlier edition of Al Sabeel," Mr. Asmar said in his column. "But it was not because we

do not want to point to the cases of corruption in our society and not because we are enemies of any particular individual," he added. Mr. Asmar asserted since

other Arabic language papers had dedicated enough space to the case "Al Sabeel did not feel the need to repeat what was already published." He was responding to a letter the weekly received

from Tafileh and which was

signed by 23 IAF supporters. In that letter, which Al Sabeel published on the inside page, the signatories said: "There was great disappointment among the youth of the Islamic movement when your paper was published without investigating or saying a word of support for this important national issue."

The signatories were especially critical of a column by Mr. Asmar which the letter said "was weak and denied the existence of corrupton hut instead took the opposite

"If there is animosity to-

wards some newspapers, then this should not stop you as Muslims, as a movement and newspaper, to say what is right," the letter added. The signatories also pointed that "Islamists were

the first to open the files of corruption in the last Parliament, and the Islamists have based all their election campaign on putting an end to financial and administrative corruption. Al Sabeel also carried two

items signed by the "editorial staff' in which it said that they were happy to receive "an unending number of tele-phone calls" and that they were not above criticism. "We stress that we are

completely on the side of the citizen... and by deduction in support of the minister of health against the whales of corruption," one of the pieces said. The criticism of the IAF movement's position was also

eluding the evening daily Akher Khahar, which accused the movement of siding with the rich against the

"We were hoping that the

apparent in other papers, in-

IAF would take this opportunity to stand hy the minister at this crucial moment because it is the poor people who give the Islamic movement its poliocal hase and its parliamentary seats, and not the large businesses even if they cloak themselves in Islam," it said in an article signed hy Nahed Hattar.

"I worry about the movement, which appears torn between the power of the people and the force of those with interests, tilong towards the side that we cannot accept," Mr. Hattar added.

Mr. Hattar's column appeared side by side with a letter from the official spokesperson of the IAF deputies, Hamzeh Mansour, who was replying to a similar charge made by Mr. Hattar a day earlier.

"I was surprised, as were my brothers the IAF deputies, by what appeared in Mr. Nahed Hattar's article in which he categorised the deputies into two groups: One with the poor people and the other which stands with the whales," Mr. Mansoor said,

"We reject the notion that our society should be divided into rich and poor for wealth is not a crime... Citizens, both rich and poor, are our hrothers and family," Dr. Mansour added,

